

Jordan Times

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Israeli jets stage raid in S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes blasted bases of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in South Lebanon Sunday as voters in and around Beirut were casting ballots in the second stage of parliament elections. Security sources in South Lebanon said four jet fighters attacked Hizbollah bases in the village of Loeiz, Mista and 'Ela Bouswar. Israel's military command confirmed the raid southeast of the Lebanese port of Sidon and said all its planes returned safely. Sources in Lebanon said tall columns of smoke could be seen from the stricken area. There was no immediate report of casualties. The sources said artillery inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon pounded the outskirts of the villages shortly after the air strike. The raid was Israel's 30th in Lebanon this year. By Lebanese police count, 37 people have been killed and 94 wounded in the previous raids.

53 killed in clash in southern Turkey

HAKKARI (AP) — Security forces and Kurdish guerrillas fought for 10 hours Sunday in a battle that killed 43 guerrillas and 10 soldiers in this southeastern province, state television reported. The fighting was the biggest single clash between soldiers and guerrillas in this southeastern province. It began when rebels attacked a military post on the border of Iran near the village of Alaa with automatic weapons and rocket launchers, the television said. The report said the guerrillas infiltrated into Turkey from Iran and attacked the border post at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT). It said the fighting lasted for 10 hours. The guerrillas are from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has been fighting for self-rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The rebels recently have dramatically intensified their attacks.

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Retiring Islamic justice honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Royal Court Sunday Chief Justice Mohammad Mheilan, who had asked for retirement. Sheikh Mheilan, who was accompanied by members of the Higher Judicial Council, briefed Prince Hassan on the Islamic judiciary system and its development in the Kingdom. Prince Hassan presented Sheikh Mheilan with the (Independence) Medal of the First Order which was conferred upon him by His Majesty King Hussein in appreciation of his efforts in serving the Islamic judicial system in Jordan. Mr. Mheilan has served in this field for more than 40 years. The chief justice was also received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who thanked him for his efforts and services.

Abu Jaber, Velayati hold talks

JAKARTA (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Sunday held talks with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati on Jordanian-Iranian relations and issues related to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Dr. Abu Jaber and Mr. Velayati are both attending the preparatory meetings to the NAM summit, which opens Tuesday. In an interview with the Iranian news agency, IRNA, Dr. Abu Jaber said the summit would tackle a host of issues related to international relations, and that the crisis in former Yugoslavia would be one of the top priority items.

Ramadan leads Iraqi team to NAM summit

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan left Baghdad on Sunday heading his country's delegation to a Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Indonesia, the Iraqi News Agency reported. He quoted Mr. Ramadan as saying before leaving that the summit would be of "extraordinary importance... because it is being held in complex international circumstances." He attacked the United States as the leader of a "new colonialist order" and said Iraq would highlight the dangers of U.S. policy in the Middle East. "The Iraqi delegation will reveal with factual proofs the aim of the U.S.-led conspiracy and aggression."

Georgian ceasefire fails to hold

MOSCOW (R) — Georgian troops and Abkhazian rebels fought fierce battles on the Black Sea coast Sunday, making nonsense of a ceasefire agreement signed a day earlier. Each side accused the other of launching a major offensive on the Abkhazian town of Gagra, just south of the Russian border. Interfax news agency quoted the Abkhazian parliament as saying Georgian troops launched a mass attack on Gagra with up to 10 tanks and about 1,000 troops. But Georgian authorities said it was the Abkhazians who stormed the town in a three-pronged offensive — by sea, by road and from the direction of the Caucasus Mountains. (Earlier story on page 8)

Algeria frees 50 from desert camp

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has freed 50 more Muslim fundamentalists from a Saharan Desert camp set up after unrest last February. The official news agency APS said the men were taken from 'Ain N'Guel camp by military aircraft to their home areas, mainly in the east of the country. Desert camps were set up under a state of emergency declared last Feb. 9 and at their peak held some 8,000 men.

Mortar kills 15 in Sarajevo — TV

SARAJEVO (R) — A mortar bomb exploded in a residential area of Sarajevo Sunday, killing 15 people and wounding several others, local television reported. Television pictures showed bodies being picked up off blood-stained pavements in the Bosnian government-controlled area of Alipasino police and put in a truck. The casualty toll could not be immediately confirmed. (Earlier story on page 8)

Baghdad vows to foil 'partition of Iraq'

Media report 'mass surrender' of rebels; pace of allied overflights may diminish

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein vowed Sunday to resist the "no-fly" zone set up by the U.S.-led allies, whom he said were seeking to partition the Arab World to bring its oil wealth under their control.

He also called for patience and for every Iraqi to work for the nation.

In a message read on his behalf on Iraqi television and radio, President Saddam said the people would defeat the partitioning of Iraq by "further indignation, decision and rejection" of the conspiracy.

"I realise that the young among you cannot stand this aggressive and infidel act and are burning with wrath, wanting to respond..."

"I don't want to hide that we (leaders) like you have the same feelings, but we in the leadership resort to patience which God wants," President Saddam said.

"What the Iraqi people are required to do and what we are required to do is to fill every day, every hour, every minute with a fruitful action in the civilian and military fields, to boost nationalism and increase legitimate ransom against the aggressive action."

President Saddam was speaking after a fourth day of sorties by warplanes of the Western allies enforcing a "no-fly" zone over the Shi'ite Muslim South. Iraq has so far failed to challenge the zone declared by the United States, Britain, France and Russia.

"We will not forget or overlook our decision to prepare what we are required to prepare and set the appropriate timing of what God will allow us to do to boost

what the Iraqis feel of honour, glory and safeguard their dignity and homeland," President Saddam said.

"We will make the enemies discover that their action will bring nothing to them but further indignation, anger and rejection from the great people of Iraq."

"Victory will be on the side of the believers," he added.

It was the first reaction from President Saddam himself to the flight ban, although government officials and the state media had earlier expressed the same defiant stance.

He said: "We will not be deceived by the slogans they have raised justifying their ban on flights in southern and northern Iraq. These slogans are a conspiracy to eliminate Iraq's historical role in... and partition the region to seize control over its oil wealth."

The allies established what they call a "safe haven" for Iraq's Kurds in the north in the wake of last year's Gulf war. Iraq and some other Arab governments have in recent days warned that the new ban could lead to the partition of Iraq into three chunks with the Sunni Muslim-dominated government controlling only the central region.

Such a split could encourage other minorities in the region to seek independence from their central governments and ultimately carved up the Arab World along sectarian and ethnic lines.

In his warning to fellow Arabs, President Saddam said: "Any country in the region that provides facilities to the forces of aggression, will alone shoulder the responsibility towards its people and towards God and bear the consequences of such an unfor-

givable action."

The overall U.S. Military chief in the Gulf said Sunday Iraq has avoided the "no-fly" zone and that pilots overflying the contentious southern marshlands have picked up no sign of military activity.

Lieutenant-General Michael Nelson said this might help reduce the rate of sorties being launched to enforce the flight exclusion zone below the 32nd Parallel.

Navy pilots have been flying over 100 missions a day from the USS Independence since the ban was set up Thursday.

Gen. Nelson briefed reporters aboard the USS Lasalle, flagship of the U.S. naval forces Central Command, then aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence. The general is based in Riyadh, but the Saudis have banned Western reporters.

He said the operation had run smoothly so far, aside from a few hiccups like an initial shortage of tankers due to the speed with which the operation was launched.

"It stays peaceful and it runs as smoothly as it has... it's possible that we may be able to do something less than the high rate we have been running with out here," said Mr. Gen. Nelson.

But the general noted such a decision needed more time. Earlier Sunday, Iraq said army deserters and infiltrators were surrendering en masse. And, referring to the policing of

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Iraqi minister assaults allies' plan; Syria says 'no-fly' zone unnecessary; Saudis participate in overflights, page 2

Palestinian delegates consult with PLO

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators at the Middle East peace talks discussed Israel's latest proposals for Palestinian self-rule with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

They said Faisal Husseini, Nabih Quesni and Saeb Erekat arrived in Tunis Saturday to discuss the Israeli offer and ask the PLO's advice on what to do next.

Palestinian negotiators said on Friday the Israelis were offering a self-rule body "deprived of any real authority" and had failed to address how the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be dismantled.

The two sides last week planned a month-long sixth round of peace talks in Washington. The talks are due to resume on Monday.

An Israeli cabinet minister asserted Sunday Palestinians were stalling at peace talks because they cannot decide what they want.

The statement by Housing Minister Binayamin Ben Eliezer reflected Israeli disappointment at the lukewarm Palestinian response to the self-rule proposal and "confidence-building" gestures.

"The reality is they waste time on questions we view as unimportant while Israel started the process with gestures and is ready to immediately get into substance," Mr. Ben Eliezer told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

"In my assessment, the source of disagreement among Palestinians stems from the absence of a source of authority and the inability to take a leadership decision to sit with us and get into substance," he added.

Palestinians have said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new centre-left government had changed tone but not positions. Mr. Ben Eliezer has reversed his predecessor Ariel Sharon's policy of expanding Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. The government also

announced a number of "confidence-building" gestures before the talks resumed last week that included cancelling expulsion orders for Palestinians, releasing prisoners and reopening sealed roads and homes.

Golan settlers restless

Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights, nervous about peace negotiations with Syria, stepped up efforts Sunday to push demands that Israel refuse to give up any of the strategic plateau.

The settlers met with sympathetic parliament members in the Golan town of Katzin, and some urged a general strike to put the issue before the rest of the country.

On Zecharya, from Katzin, told Israel Radio that Golan settlers should follow the activist example of West Bank settlers. "Our behaviour in the Golan is apathetic... We need now, immediately, to organise a strike in the Golan's private and public businesses," Mr. Zecharya said.

Settlers and politicians began to voice concern last week when Israel's delegation to the peace talks announced that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 — which calls for trading peace for land — applied to the Golan.

Prime Minister Rabin told parliament members a day later that Israel would not come down off the Heights but did not need "to hold on to every centimetre" of the territory.

Syria says it would not make peace unless Israel returns the entire 1,150-square kilometre territory.

Katzin, where Sunday's meeting was held, is the largest settlement in the region, with about 4,500 settlers. About 7,000 more Jews live in 31 other settlements, most perched on the mountains that tower above the lush Hula Valley and the Sea of Galilee.

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Peace talks resume today

WASHINGTON (R) — Palestinians and Israelis enter a second week of Middle East peace talks Monday with fundamentally contradictory views on self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Although both sides are in Washington to negotiate a five-year-period of interim self-rule, Palestinian and Israeli proposals appear geared towards deciding now whether a final settlement will give the Palestinians an independent state.

Israel proposed last week that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect an administrative council with limited powers, but the Palestinians demanded an assembly able to pass laws like a sovereign parliament.

"The core of the problem includes really the nature of the interim self-government arrangements," chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rebenstein said. "What we hope is to agree that this is a concept of an administrative council."

But Palestinian negotiator Mamdouh Al Aker told reporters: "We regard the interim period as a bridge between 25 years of Israeli occupation and Palestinian statehood."

"We are not in these talks for self-rule. We are talking about an interim period to implement (United Nations Resolutions) 242 and 338," he added.

The Israelis suggested that the Palestinian council could pass only some secondary legislation and proposed that its exact areas of jurisdiction should be negotiated at the talks.

Palestinians argue that this approach closes the door to a future Palestinian state because it would leave crucial "residual powers" in Israel's hands. Israel would still exercise all powers not specifically granted to the new council.

The Palestinians, urged by the United States not to reject the proposals out of hand, have



HEADING FOR RECUPERATION: His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor and aides, Saturday leaves the Mayo Clinic after a 12-day stay during which he underwent surgery to remove a tumour in his urinary tract

Ethiopian hijack ends in Rome; none harmed

ROME (Agencies) — Five Ethiopians who commandeered an Ethiopian jetliner to flee their country surrendered peacefully Sunday when assured Italy would not send them home to face the death penalty.

The hijackers released 79 passengers in Djibouti, the country that was the first stop in a daylong odyssey that also took the plane to Yemen and Cairo before it landed in Rome.

"It is a good ending to this affair, represented by the fact that it was concluded without any damage or injury," said Carmelo Caruso, an Interior Ministry official.

"It is due to the fact that they trusted us while they said they did not trust the authorities in the other places where they had landed," Mr. Caruso told reporters at an airport news conference.

Italian officials said the five men, who claimed to be political dissidents, would be charged with air piracy and undergo trial regardless of how a government commission rules on their request for the formal political refugee status.

The hijacking began on Saturday

day shortly after the plane left Addis Ababa. After releasing the passengers of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 727 in Djibouti, the plane continued to Aden in Yemen, Cairo and then Rome.

"Their most pressing request was not to be sent back to their country," Mr. Caruso told reporters after the hijacking ended without injuries at about 7 a.m. (0500 GMT).

The five men, who appeared to be in their 30s and were not immediately identified, held the plane's seven crew members hostage for about four and half hours at Rome's partially military Ciampino airport before giving up.

"They left their weapons on the plane... we saw two grenades and these are being inspected," Mr. Caruso told reporters at the airport. The Italian news agency ANSA later reported that a gun was also found on the plane.

Giorgio Castellucci, the investigating magistrate leading the investigation, said the request for asylum would be handled separately from a trial. He said even if

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Tunisian Islamists jailed for life term

TUNIS (R) — A Tunis military court sentenced 11 Islamic fundamentalists to life imprisonment on Sunday on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

The verdicts were handed down by one of two courts trying a total of 279 people on the charges.

The 108 people sentenced on Sunday included Habib Lassoud, a dissident of the banned Islamic movement 'Al Nahdha (renaissance) and leader of the "Commandos of Sacrifice" group.

Three leading members of 'Al Nahdha, Ali Laridh, Ziad Doulati and Sahnoun Jawhari, were sentenced to 15 years' jail each.

On Friday, a military court handed down verdicts in 171 cases tried for plotting to kill President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and overthrow the government. It sentenced 35 to life imprisonment but rejected prosecution demands for death sentences.

and were held in tandem at Bonchoucha Barracks in Bardo, near Tunis.

Prisoners given life terms on Friday included Sadok Chourou and Habib Elhouz of 'Al Nahdha, Hedi Ghali, Samir Ben Tili and Bouraoui Makhlof, described as the main plotters against the president's life, and student leaders Abdou Kerim Harouni and Lajimi Louirini.

Several of the accused were exiles tried in their absence. Exiles given life sentences included Ali Nahdha's top leader, Rashed Channouchi, two of its other founders, Salah Karkar and Habbu Mokni, and mathematics professor Mohammad Ben Salem.

The two courts imposed a total of 46 life sentences.

The military prosecutor had demanded the death penalty for nine of the 108 people sentenced on Sunday.

Jordan, London Club reach debt agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh returned to Amman Sunday after talks with the London Club on Jordan's commercial debts and announced that the outcome of the negotiations was positive and a total success.

Mr. Jaraneh, who was accompanied to the talks by a delegation including Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi and Finance Ministry Counsellor Mohammad Mukhtar, said the negotiations with the commercial creditors' steering committee ended with an "agreement on arrangements enabling Jordan to achieve effective reduction of its debt burden."

"This can be done either through reducing a fixed amount of the debt due on Jordan or through reducing interest rates on the loans," Mr. Jaraneh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his return to Amman.

The three-day meeting in London was a follow-up to one held by the two sides last March when the steering committee demanded that arrangements be made so as they can lead to a reduction of payments on debt-servicing and that the loans be settled after a long period of time in one single payment instead of rescheduling instalments.

Mr. Jaraneh said that the new arrangement allows Jordan the

choice of debt buy-back from commercial banks under new terms to be agreed on concerning the settlement of unpaid interest.

Jordan had rejected the London Club's earlier proposal since, according to the minister, it was not considered as an effective means towards a genuine reduction of services on loans.

According to Mr. Jaraneh, the two sides agreed to hold another meeting in the last week of next month on arrangements for reducing the volume of principal and interest rates.

Jordan's total foreign debts stand at around \$7 billion of which \$1.2 billion is owed to commercial banks and the rest distributed among foreign governments and Arab and international agencies.

Jordan has already reached agreement with the Paris Club of governments on payments of principal and interest in arrears as well as those due by mid-1993.

Mr. Jaraneh said that follow-up bilateral agreements were reached with the governments of Canada, the United States, France, Denmark and Switzerland. Initial agreements have been reached with the governments of Germany, Sweden and Belgium, Mr. Jaraneh said.

Negotiations are still underway over rescheduling debts due to other members of the Paris Club, he added.

Lebanon polls continue despite rightist boycott

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Right-wing Maronite Catholics shut down the Christian heartland Sunday to protest the second stage of parliament elections, held in Beirut and the central mountains.

In Beirut's southern slums, Iranian-backed Shiite Muslims mounted a last-minute campaign in hopes of adding to last week's fundamentalist victories in eastern Lebanon.

They promised voters supporting Hizbollah candidates "a rendezvous in paradise."

Results of Sunday's voting were expected within 24 hours of the polls closing at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Police reported no violence. In all, 128 parliament members will be selected in the three-tier election, which began in the north and eastern Bekaa Valley on Aug. 23 and concludes in the Shiite Muslim-dominated south on Sept. 6.

Right-wing Christians have called a boycott of the balloting, the first in Lebanon in 20 years.

They argue that holding the elections while Syrian peacekeeping troops remain in the country will produce a parliament that is a puppet of Syria. The Syrians were

sent in under a 1976 Arab League mandate.

In Muslim and Druze districts in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, enthusiastic voters flocked to take part in the election.

Maronite Christian Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, the spiritual mentor of the country's Christian opposition, told Reuters the elections were a sham and threatened a "negative, democratic boycott" if the government did not scrap the polls.

"The parliament that is being elected now will be illegal and will not last... we will take to negative, democracy boycott," Patriarch Sfeir said in an interview at his headquarters in Bkirki.

Barely any Christians turned out to vote in Ashrafieh, Dora and Four Al Chebak neighbourhoods of Beirut. It was the same in the mountainous area of Metn, the port of Byblos and the Antilias and Baabda areas near Beirut.

Traffic was thin as residents stayed indoors.

"These are not elections," George Haddad, 47, said. "These are appointments by Syria. This is not democracy, this is a farce."

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Shaky truce holds in shell-shocked Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghanistan's war-shattered capital limped back to life Sunday as a ceasefire between dissident rebels and government forces got off to a shaky start.

For nearly a month the thunderous clatter of incoming rebel rockets rattled the capital, killing an estimated 1,800 people, wounding thousands more and destroying hundreds of homes and shops. Tens of thousands of Kabul residents fled the city.

Residents ventured from their homes Sunday but few believed the ceasefire agreed to a day earlier would hold.

Already the government was reporting sporadic clashes with renegade troops from the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami faction. A Defence Ministry spokesman said government soldiers and rebel forces duelled south of Kabul late Saturday, but the report could not be independently confirmed.

Within hours of signing the peace pact, Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani argued over the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Hekmatyar wants the four-month-old government to expel its militia allies from Kabul, but the government said the Uzbek-dominated militia has been absorbed into the army.

The Uzbek-dominated militia, which once backed the communist government, traded allegiance earlier this year and joined the rebel resistance that led to April's collapse of the communist government.

Mr. Hekmatyar also wants elections within two months but the government says the war-ravaged country would not be ready for polls for at least a year.

While the leaders haggled over details, shell-shocked residents took advantage of the calm Sunday to stock up on food supplies and fill spare containers with water.

Yellow taxis, buses and onion sellers' donkeys packed the streets as the peace provided a rare opportunity for the residents to stock larders without fear of a rocket attack.

More than 1,800 people have been killed and thousands injured in fighting, including 87 who died when a cluster rocket hit a busy bazaar area in the first week of the unrest.

"In all the 14 years of the war it was never this bad," said Abdul Rahman, a former judge who lived in the city throughout the

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Last Russian diplomats leave Kabul, page 2

Iraqi minister assails allies' plan, says south open for foreign inspection

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi officials Sunday reiterated that Iraq refuses to be cowed down by the imposition of a "no-fly" zone in the south by the Western alliance but indicated Baghdad would not be provoked into a military confrontation over the issue.

"This is a new Western conspiracy planned by the U.S., Britain, and France to pressure Iraq and control Arab wealth and oil," said Iraqi Planning Minister Samir Majid Farraj. "We, the people and leadership of Iraq, totally reject this conspiracy and just as we have withstood the economic embargo, we will fight this new conspiracy with all means," Mr. Farraj told reporters outside the conference hall of a U.N. agency meeting which opened in Amman (see page 3).

Mr. Farraj said the Iraqi government had sent invitations to "Arab and foreign parliaments, including members of the (anti-Iraq) coalition, to come and visit our southern marshes and see for themselves that its inhabitants are living safely."

The U.S., Britain and France — the leading partners in the coalition — say that the "no-fly" zone — below the 32nd Parallel in southern Iraq — was imposed as an umbrella to protect Iraqi Shiite dissidents living in the marshlands from attacks by the Iraqi military. But Iraq argues that the Western move, coupled with a similar zone in the north of the country, is another step in partitioning the country.

Reports of Iraqi attacks against the Shites in the south, Mr. Farraj said, are "fabricated" by Western intelligence agencies to "justify their aggression against Iraq."

Iraq suggested three weeks ago that foreign parliamentarians visit the south to verify for themselves whether the reports were true. The Arab League welcomed the move as positive, but no Arab foreign government has so far publicly accepted the invitation.

"We have sent messages to all brotherly Arab as well as other countries explaining our position and the extent of their aggression against Iraq," Mr. Farraj said. According to the minister, the objective of the allied plan is "the dominance of the U.S. and its

allies in the region. Iraq is the first to reject this."

"We are members of the United Nations and will continue to remain so in accordance with the U.N.," Mr. Farraj said. "We are not enemies of the U.N. agencies."

While the minister would not be drawn into answering whether Iraq planned to defy the ban on flights imposed by the allies, other Iraqi officials pointed out that a meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) had decided that the best option was to try to wear out the coalition rather than confronting it.

"How long will they continue policing Iraq?" asked one official.

Mr. Farraj arrived here Saturday leading a four-member delegation to the meetings of the Economic and Social Council for West Asia (ESCWA).

The meetings opened Sunday and the Iraqi minister chaired the opening session and was scheduled to preside over the general sessions of the conference before handing over chairmanship, most possibly to Jordan, at the conclusion of the gathering Thursday.

Sudan denies sending guerrillas to Egypt

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — A Sudanese leader has denied Egyptian claims that Sudan was training and sending guerrillas to Egypt on bombing and sabotage missions.

Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, head of the Sudanese National Council (parliament), told a news conference in the Syrian capital that Sudan was open to any inspection to prove the falsehood of the claims.

"The claims by the Egyptian interior minister are not new. Egypt had made such claims before. Sudan is open for you. You can come and prove for yourselves that these claims are false," Mr. Khalifa said at the end of an official visit.

On the contrary Egypt is hiding hundreds of Sudanese opposition members who are enjoying Egyptian accommodation and money. We did not say anything about that. We want to be better than them (Egyptians).

Egypt publicly accused its southern neighbour Sudan on Thursday of training and sending guerrillas to Egypt on bombing and sabotage missions.

Interior Minister Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa said security forces had arrested 62 well-armed and well-funded Egyptians and other Arabs who were planning acts of violence. Sudan had trained some of them, he said.

Egyptian officials have long said in private that the military rulers who came to power in Khartoum in 1989 were trying to export Islamic revolution by violence and to destabilise the region.

The Sudanese rulers are close to the country's Muslim fundamentalist movement.

The Sudanese official denied reports Sudan was seeking the help of Syria, which has good ties with Egypt, to mediate in Sudan's row with Egypt.

Tensions between Egypt and Sudan over a border dispute have not stopped camel traders and other Sudanese from trekking to markets in Cairo.

Hundreds of camels milled around the market Friday in the Cairo suburb of Fitzaba as owners cracked their whips and negotiated deals with potential buyers.

"So long as I have an official permit as a camel dealer, there's no problem," said Abdullah Ahmad, a young Sudanese who marched for about a month from northern Sudan through the desert to the Egyptian border.

"Sure, there are stricter security checks now, but that's all right," he said. "It's to be expected, and Egypt has the right to do so."

The tension between Egypt and Sudan began in late 1991, when Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Khartoum in a show of friendship with Sudan's fundamentalist government, led by Omar Hassan Al Bashir. Lieutenant-General Bashir has imposed Islamic law in Sudan since taking power in 1989.

Iraq no-fly zone unnecessary — Allaf

WASHINGTON (R) — The head of Syria's delegation to the Middle East peace talks said on Saturday a U.S.-initiated no-fly zone over southern Iraq was unnecessary.

"It is an unnecessary measure now," Moufah Al Allaf, whose country fought against Iraq in the Gulf war, told a group of Arab journalists.

He warned that it could set a precedent and encourage foreign powers to use similar measures against other Arab countries in the future.

Mr. Allaf, who is in Washington to attend the month-long Arab-Israeli peace talks, also criticised Washington for vowing this month to maintain Israel's "qualitative military edge" in the Middle East.

Syria and Iraq, ruled by opposing factions of the Ba'ath Party, have been at bitter political odds for many years. Some 20,000 Syrian troops fought in the U.S.-led allied force which defeated Iraq last year.

The no-fly zone was set up by Gulf war allies Britain, France and the United States, with Russia's approval, to support Iraqi Shiite dissidents living below the 32nd Parallel.

Mr. Allaf, whose country has 40,000 troops spread over two-thirds of Lebanon, burst out laughing when asked if the West should set up a similar zone in southern Lebanon to end repeated Israeli raids against Lebanese Shites.

One journalist said Washington's perception was that "the Iraqis are good Shites but the Lebanese are bad Shites."

In an interview broadcast later Saturday by the Washington-based Cable Television Arab Network of America (ANA), Mr. Allaf said some Arabs called for a boycott of the sixth round of Middle East talks after the United States vowed strong military backing for Israel.

"Such commitments are in contradiction with the spirit of the

University of Jordan to take more Chechens

By Mariam M. Shaban
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An increase of the number of university students eligible to attend the University of Jordan from Chechen-Ingush has been agreed upon by the Jordanian government and senior officials from the Central Asian Republic at the end of a three-day visit by the deputy prime minister of the republic, Yurii Mohammad.

On a visit to Jordan to express his government's best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein, Mr. Mohammad Sunday met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Al Sharif and President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharaibeh (see page 3).

Mr. Mohammad, whose republic announced its independence from the former Soviet Union in September last year, said that his primary concern was to restructure the legal and religious institutions in the Chechen Republic.

The republic's 1,300,000 people are Muslims, Mr. Mohammad told the Jordan Times. Their legal and religious institutions which had been controlled by communist Moscow for over 40 years need revamping, he said.

"We have come to an agreement that 100 to 200 Chechen

students will come to study Arabic in Jordan and later up to 400 students to learn Arabic and Sharia," he said.

In turn Chechen universities and technical schools will open up an "unlimited" number of places for Jordanian students wishing to study in their oil-refining industries, he said.

Mr. Mohammad said he hoped that future economic and trade ventures would be made with Jordan. Specific projects were not yet discussed. He stressed his country's respect for the King and thanked Jordan for the relief supplies that were sent to the republic by Jordanian charitable societies during the last winter in which the republic witnessed food shortages.

He said that the main points of mutual interest between Jordan and the Chechen Republic was their common Islamic heritage, which, he said, will help forge closer religious and cultural ties.

Leaders of the Chechen Republic have already set up diplomatic ties with several countries in the Middle East and have visited Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and several other Gulf states.

Mr. Mohammad spoke in his native Chechen. Lower House Deputy and representative of the Chechen community Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammo translated his comments.

Saudis participating in air embargo

ABOARD THE USS LASALLE (AP) — Saudi Arabian warplanes are participating in the allied air embargo over southern Iraq, a Pentagon source said Saturday.

The Saudis are the only Arab state to contribute aircraft to "Operation Southern Watch," which was launched by the United States, Britain and France Thursday.

Saudi Arabia is also providing bases and logistical support for the allied air operation, but it is trying to maintain a very low profile and has barred the western media.

U.S. air force Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis Krembel, who is commander of an F-15C fighter

squadron, told a news conference Saturday that Saudi KE-3 tankers had refueled several F-15Cs which flew missions over southern Iraq on Friday night.

The Pentagon source, speaking on condition he was not identified, said that Saudi AWACS surveillance planes, Tornado reconnaissance-bombers and F-15C fighters are also participating in enforcing the "no-fly" zone below the 32nd Parallel.

"They're not really full participants," the source said. "They don't have as many aircraft as us."

But the source said the Saudis are contributing more aircraft than either the British or French,

though he refused to disclose any numbers.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Saudis have five AWACS, 60 F-15Cs and 52 Tornados. Britain has sent six Tornados and the French are sending 10 Mirage 2000s, according to diplomatic sources.

The U.S. navy has 70 aircraft on carrier USS Independence flying about 60 per cent of the missions over southern Iraq, the source said. The air force is flying about 40 per cent of the missions with an undisclosed number of aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, mainly at the Dhahran air base.

Fighting impedes airlift to south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Rebels and Sudanese soldiers are locked in a battle for the southern regional capital of Juba and 300,000 hungry, terrified civilians are trapped in the middle.

Elsewhere in the south, exhaustion and illness have claimed the lives of at least 5,000 refugees since May.

Because of fighting and rebel shelling of Juba, relief flights from Entebbe, Uganda, were suspended for five weeks and have been sporadic since. Only about 500 tonnes of corn, beans, medicine and materials for shelter were delivered in a nine-day period. The town needs 3,000 tonnes a month.

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) has warned of a looming disaster in southern Sudan and says the most vulner-

able area is Juba, which is held by the government but surrounded by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Relief flights risk being caught in cross-fire unless both sides grant safe passage. The rebels have refused such guarantees, apparently not trusting the United Nations after the Sudan government used planes with the U.N. insignia to ferry troops to Juba, 1,000 kilometres south of Khartoum.

Government planes continue flying, but usually carry commercial food, soldiers and supplies for the estimated 15,000 troops in Juba.

"Because of the shelling, the population of Juba has moved to the centre of the town in about one-quarter of its area," said Giorgio Maralano, senior advi-

sor at the WFP.

"Before the airlift started, the situation in Juba was really desperate. We don't know what they were eating."

Juba is not the only hot spot in southern Sudan. The government offensive has forced tens of thousands of civilians to flee northward. Western diplomats and relief officials believe many have died on the trek. Others reach their destinations exhausted, ill and starving.

Their plight is similar to that of people trying to escape clan warfare in Somalia, where up to two million are in danger.

Al Mairam, 480 kilometres south of Khartoum, is one of the few trouble spots Western relief officials have been allowed to visit. In one camp of about 7,000 people, about 20 people die every day. Seventeen of those who died recently fell victim to a measles epidemic.

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For more information, tel. 642187, 694494, 820098

OBITUARY

The Faculty and Students of the Brigham Young University, Jerusalem Centre for Near Eastern Studies and the administrators of the Amman Cultural and Educational Centre express their heartfelt condolences to the family of **Senator Mohammad Kamal**. He was a great Jordanian statesman and a good friend to all who knew him.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Monde Sous Marine
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Close to Home
21:30	Go on to the Dogs
22:00	News in English
22:30	Strains Family
PRAYER TIMES	
06:38	Fajr
06:47	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:38	Dhuhr
16:16	Asr
19:16	Maghrib
20:38	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632765	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 649322	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will continue to be hot and windy with a northeasterly moderate to strong breeze.	
Aqua, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
AMMAN	
Min./Max. temp.	22/37
Aqua	26/40
Debris	19/38
Jordan Valley	25/39
YERUSALEM	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 36, Aqua 39. Humidity readings:	

Amman 26 per cent. Aqua 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE: Dr. Yousef Semmour 615648
Dr. Riza Abu Zaid 894295
Dr. Rami Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Jamal Al-Jabari 796460
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azzam pharmacy 677055
Nairolah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Steinmann pharmacy 637660

IRRED: Dr. Muzahem Al Rashid (—)
AL Sharaa pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA: Dr. Yousef Awad (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 994676

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 63681
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Aila Int. Airport 06-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:45 Moscow (RJ)
10:00 London (RJ)
10:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:30 Paris (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
11:00 Khartoum (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Aden (AL)
07:15 Beirut (ME)
07:30 Dubai (EM)
07:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
08:00 Istanbul (TK)
08:15 Cairo (MS)
08:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45 Khartoum (SU)

MARKET PRICES

Up/down price in Jds per kg.
Apple (red) 550/320
Banana 500/450
Bacon (American) 550/500
Beef 480/300
Cabbage 90/50
Carrot 250/200
Cauliflower 240/180
Cucumber (large) 120/80
Cucumber (small) 230/180
Eggplant 90/50
Garlic 550/450
Lemon 500/300
Mint 150/100
Mint (large) 150/100
Mint (small) 150/100
Onion (dry) 130/90
Onion (green) 150/100
Peas 600/500
Pepper (hot) 250/150
Pepper (sweet) 180/120
Potato 60/30
Sweet Melon 180/120
Tomato 60/30
Watermelon 60/30

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:30 Aden (AL)
07:45 Dubai (EM)
08:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
08:15 Istanbul (TK)
08:30 Cairo (MS)
08:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:50 Khartoum (SU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:45 Moscow (RJ)
08:00 London (RJ)
08:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:30 Paris (RJ)
08:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:00 Khartoum (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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07:15 Beirut (ME)
07:30 Dubai (EM)
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Lemon 500/300
Mint 150/100
Mint (large) 150/100
Mint (small) 150/100
Onion (dry) 130/90
Onion (green) 150/100
Peas 600/500
Pepper (hot) 250/150
Pepper (sweet) 180/120
Potato 60/30
Sweet Melon 180/120
Tomato 60/30
Watermelon 60/30

Kingdom expresses willingness to promote ties with Islamic republics

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Deputy Prime Minister of Chechen-Ingush Republic Yasar Mohammad Sunday discussed Jordanian-Chechen relations and the prospects for training Chechen students in Jordanian institutions.

Discussion also covered Jordan's needs for Chechen expertise in oil prospecting, and Chechen-Ingush needs of Arabic language and Islamic religion training for its students.

Mr. Mohammad voiced his country's good wishes for His Majesty King Hussein's speedy recovery and thanked Jordan for the shipment of medical supplies it has recently sent to the people of Chechen-Ingush.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker also met with Mr. Mohammad and informed him of Jordan's interest in promoting ties with the Islamic republics of the commonwealth of Independent States.

The prime minister also expressed the Jordanian government's readiness to offer these republics Jordanian expertise and technical assistance and to promote their campaign to spread the teaching of Koran and Arabic language among the Muslim population in their region.

Mr. Mohammad also discussed means of bolstering cooperation



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets with Deputy Prime Minister of Chechen-Ingush Republic Yasar Mohammad (second from right) in the presence of Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki (right).

between Jordan and Chechen-Ingush in information fields with Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Shari.

Mr. Mohammad visited the University of Jordan and met with its president Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh and discussed scope of cooperation between educational institutions in his country and Jordan.

He said his country wishes to send a number of its students to acquire higher education in Ara-

bia, law and Islamic law (sharia) at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Gharaibeh welcomed the proposal, expressing hope that agreement in this regard would be reached soon through the governments of the two countries.

Dr. Gharaibeh briefed the visitor on the university's activities and programmes including Arabic teaching to foreigners.

Attending the meeting was Member of Parliament Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo.

Ministry closes down some pharmacies for busting rules

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh said Sunday that some drug stores have been closed down temporarily for violating regulations.

Dr. Bataineh said that some of the violations included the appointment of unqualified pharmacists selling drugs that require prescriptions without authorisation.

"Recently, the Health Ministry learned that some drugstores had been selling drugs for the treatment of mental cases like tranquilizers which have been used by young men and women without doctors' prescriptions," said Dr. Bataineh. He said that the over-use of these drugs in some cases caused some people to become addicted to them.

Dr. Bataineh said some pharmacies were found selling expired and smuggled drugs.

"Whenever a violation is discovered the responsible pharmacist

is referred to a disciplinary council at the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) and if the violation is repeated, the Health Ministry normally closes the drugstore and refers the pharmacist to court," according to Dr. Bataineh.

The director of the Health Ministry's department responsible for controlling drugs in the market, Nayef Hamarneh, said that inspection teams visit three to four drugstores on a daily basis in different areas to ensure that their owners abide by the regulations. The visits do not follow a certain schedule and could be prompted by public complaints against specific drugstores.

The department is currently conducting an intense campaign covering all drugstores and pharmacies to ensure that they are not violating the law.

JPA President Husam Mismar echoed the minister's complaints

about the violations. In some cases non-pharmacists were involved in selling medicine to the public, he said.

"Some drugstores were also selling dangerous drugs without prescription," he added.

He said that out of 830 pharmacies operating in Jordan, no more than 25 are found to be violating the law each year — a rate of three per cent — compared with advanced nations where the rate stands at five per cent.

Mr. Mismar said that some young men and women had succeeded in purchasing tranquilizers and became addicted to them. He called on parents and pharmacists to be on the alert and try to thwart all such attempts.

Mr. Mismar also said that the JPA has no leniency in dealing with drugstores committing repeated violations.

Jordan and Egypt plan to upgrade trade pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee, led by the ministers of industry and trade in the two countries, will hold a meeting in Cairo Saturday to chart further plans for Jordanian-Egyptian trade and economic cooperation.

An announcement here Sunday said that members of a panel forward to prepare for the joint committee meeting will leave Monday for Cairo.

The preparatory committee is scheduled to revise the Jordanian-Egyptian trade agreements concluded in 1967 with a view to upgrading its provisions before the joint committee begins sessions, the statement said.

Committee sources said the two sides plan to work out a new trade agreement that can cater to the economic and trade developments. The new agreement, they said, will cover the operation of the trade centres in Cairo and Amman and the volume of national goods that can be sold in each other's markets.

Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, who is to lead the Jordanian side to the talks in Cairo, is now in Damascus attending the opening of the Damascus International Fair where Jordan is displaying samples of its industrial products.

Dr. Ensour held talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Mohammad Imadi on Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in economic and trade fields and prospects for upgrading trade agreements concluded between the two countries.

The two sides stressed the need for the resumption of meetings by the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee.

Dr. Ensour Sunday met with Dr. Salim Yassin, Syrian minister responsible for economic affairs, to discuss trade.

Syria and Egypt are separately linked through a number of agreements with Jordan, concluded through the higher joint committees which meet periodically to draw further plans to develop cooperation in various fields.

The Jordanian-Egyptian and the Jordanian-Syrian higher committees did not meet since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August of 1990.

Regent calls on U.N. to emphasise its development role

ESCWA's 16th session opens in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday the United Nations should focus more on its role in development in Western Asia and called for restructuring the world body in the light of the emerging new world order and the end of the Cold War.

The Regent, in an opening speech to the 16th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), pointed out, in an oblique reference to the U.N. approach to the Gulf crisis and Iraq, that despite the presence of numerous U.N. agencies in the region, "the developmental role of the U.N. in Western Asia has weakened while its security role has increased."

"With the ending of the Cold War, polarisation between the West and East ... have ended and the U.N. became a free organisation in its activities," the Regent noted in the speech, which was delivered on his behalf by Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat.

"This requires a reconsideration of its structure so that greater measures of concentration, coordination and effectiveness can be achieved," he said. "This is a matter that calls for consideration and appraisal, and hopefully it will receive greater attention by the secretary-general of the United Nations, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali," the Regent told the gathering of representatives from 12 Arab countries, U.N. officials, diplomats and international experts.

While he implicitly criticised the U.N., the Regent paid tribute to ESCWA and its "constructive developmental role."

"Despite the enormous difficulties which the commission has encountered, it has continued to perform its tasks as a specialised centre for economic and social development in the region," and as a consultative technical organ offering its services to member states," he said.

Turning to regional cooperation and security, the Regent said the chance was there for the countries in the region to address their domestic needs and concerns while playing a greater role in the world economy under the new world order.

"The opportunity is still open to us to pull ourselves together and muster

our abilities and energy to build an Arab order for the region that would achieve economic integration for member states, guarantee for the generations to come security and stability and open wide horizons for relations with other parts of the world to strengthen common interests and intensify areas of economic, social and technological cooperation," the Regent told the conference, the first of its kind held in Amman and attended by representatives of the Gulf Arab states after the Gulf war.

The Crown Prince referred to his call for an initiative modelled along the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He said such a process could be "an appropriate framework that encompasses our principles, concerns, and aspirations while taking into account the 'givens' in the international situation."

Noting that many of the issues facing Middle East countries have regional dimensions rather than national considerations such as the environment, guarantees for sustainable development and water resources, absorption of population and migrant workers, and social problems such as crimes and drugs, the Regent expressed hope that "efforts would be oriented towards formulating and implementing regional programmes and projects that would enable all member states and their peoples to cooperate in order to build a more shining, more stable and more prosperous future."

Regional security, prosperity and cooperation, the Regent said, could and should be based on a labour pact and a regional social-security pact along the lines of those adopted by the European countries.

The Regent said hopes that the 1990s would herald a better era in regional development were dashed by the Gulf crisis.

He referred to Jordan's economic situation and the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on the Kingdom. He noted that Jordan had made remarkable progress in its economic reform programme when the Gulf crisis struck in the second half of 1990.

"Jordan was stunned by the influx of around one million Arab and foreign workers into its territory, which forced the country to concentrate its efforts on meeting their basic requirements and facilitating passage to their countries according to generally accepted human values," the Regent said in reference to the flood of third country nationals into Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"This was followed by a return of some 300,000 Jordanian nationals from Kuwait forcibly and suddenly, which added to the pressures felt on public services such as education, health and housing," he noted, adding the returnees raised the rate of



Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat (second from right), ESCWA Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber (left), U.N. Under-Secretary General Ji Chaozhu (second from left) and Iraqi Planning Minister Samal Majid Farraj (right) attend the opening session of the 16th conference of ESCWA in Amman (Petra photo).

unemployment in Jordan, which also lost expatriate remittances from the Gulf.

In conclusion, the Regent said: "For centuries, this region has enriched humanity with its culture, values, achievements and civilisation. We cannot stay behind while the world moves ahead, particularly considering the high levels of education and development we are achieving."

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber, executive secretary of the now Amman-based ESCWA and a U.N. under-secretary general, made a brief review of the problems the agency faced in the wake of the Gulf crisis, particularly those which forced it to move its headquarters from Baghdad to Amman.

He said the U.N. General Secretariat and all U.N. members supported the agency in its efforts to overcome the problems and resume its regular activities.

"I believe that ESCWA is now able to meet the needs of the region and member states in terms of its technical, advisory, scientific, and operational services in various social and economic fields."

Dr. Abdul Jaber noted that the current session of ESCWA, the first since the Gulf crisis, was particularly important since it has to take into consideration new social and economic realities brought into being by the crisis.

The session will review the commission's programmes and projects planned for the period 1992-1997 and will set priorities in a general framework "in light of major development in the region and the rest of the world," he said.

Another important topic for discussion during the Amman session, Dr. Abdul Jaber said, is the economic impact of the 1992 European single market on the ESCWA region.

"I hope that the discussion of this subject will not be confined to demonstrating the impact, how to benefit from such a major economic grouping and establishing economic relations based on mutual benefit," he said. "I hope that ESCWA countries will come out of this discussion fully convinced that economic integration is a necessary in a world where all countries are heading towards the formation of economic and political groupings to protect their interests."

Without directly referring to the strain in political relations among some of the ESCWA member-states resulting from the Gulf crisis, Dr. Abdul Jaber called on them to "transcend their differences, especially in the face of crucial challenges, and

reestablish firm foundations for cooperation."

The differences between Jordan and the Gulf states appeared to be evident in the level of participation at the ESCWA conference. While the meeting was supposed to be at ministerial level, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt sent low-level delegations, while Kuwait stayed away.

Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen are represented at ministerial level. A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee is representing the State of Palestine.

Dr. Ghali, in a message to the conference, said the issues to be discussed "relate to crucial requirements of regional construction, the implications of (an Arab-Israeli) peace settlements, economic restructuring, economic cooperation and integration, technology, the environment and human resources development."

All these issues, Dr. Ghali said in the message delivered by Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Development Ji Chaozhu, "will need to be addressed in close cooperation and coordination with regional organisations, particularly the League of Arab States and its specialised agencies."

The message reflected on the effects of the Gulf crisis on the region, particularly the needs of reconstruction and problems created by massive displacement of migrant workers.

"Peace and security and development are inextricably linked," the message said. "Peace must be the overriding quest if the process of economic development and social progress is to be resumed soon."

Dr. Ghali called on the region's countries to reduce their "overdependence on the production of energy" and emphasised the need to "diversify their economic structure."

ESCWA can extend help in various fields, including coordination of regional efforts to address the problem of scarce water resources, he said. "Much has been done in this respect through the commission over the years, but much more will be required in the future."

The ESCWA session is chaired by Iraq, represented by its Planning Minister Salam Majid Farraj. Ironically, however, no development project in the war-torn country is expected to be discussed during the session since the international embargo imposed on it for its invasion of Kuwait bans any such U.N. activity there.

Bomb scare at old U.S. embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — An American Embassy spokesman Sunday denied press reports that police found and defused explosives at a vacant U.S. embassy building in Amman, saying that a bomb squad which was called to inspect the building found nothing.

"We called the bomb squad after receiving a bomb scare but there is no truth to reports that explosives were found," said the

spokesman who asked not to be identified.

An embassy source later explained that what triggered the scare was an old training device that was left behind when the embassy moved from its building in Jabal Amman to the new complex in Abdoun.

The U.S. mission moved in July to its new quarters in Abdoun in West Amman.

A short cut to education information

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new computer-based telephone system is book-keeping students up to information on what private schools, colleges and language centres have to offer this academic year.

Developed in Jordan by the computer whiz duo of Nidal Saudi and his brother, the 24-hour education hotline can be accessed by any standard telephone.

Since its introduction Aug. 15, an average of 1,840 students dial the pilot number daily for school-specific information on admission policy and requirements, academic programmes, financial aid, housing and sports.

Five private universities, eight colleges and several language and vocational centres have already subscribed to the system that costs academic administrations JD 27 a month but is free for callers. Each subscriber has 30 seconds on the hotline.

Mr. N. Saudi, a University of Southern California communications graduate, said the system is used by several universities in America but the idea to introduce it in Jordan was tripped by the recent 51.3 per cent overall twi-jibi pass rate.

"One half flunked the exam, which means they will be out of work. They need a wider selection of educational outlets to

choose from. There are hotel, secretarial and other training schools in Jordan that many people don't know about," he said.

The system is also cheaper for universities and colleges, cutting costs on advertisements that can run from JD 200 to JD 1700 a day during registration. Education centres can also cut down on expenses for brochures and pamphlets.

For Jordan University of Women, the hotline was a brief relief during a busy summer.

According to university Registration and Admission Director Ali Yaghi, the institute received about 30 calls a day from prospective students.

"Students can get general information from the hotline and then call us if they want to inquire further," Mr. Yaghi said.

With 250,000 telephones in Jordan, Mr. Saudi said "people from villages can call from a local pharmacy phone and get access to what the guy in western Amman has."

After school registration Sept. 15, Mr. Saudi said he plans to make the service bilingual and add more in-depth information on academic facilities. Students may also soon be able to transfer credits by phone as well as drop and add course and learn about education opportunities abroad.

The telephone number is 682642.

Saraiereh and ASCO chief discuss satellite utilisation

AMMAN (Petra) — Telephone and television services reaching the Arab World through a second generation of satellites to be launched in 1995 were reviewed at a meeting here Sunday by Minister of Posts and Communications Jamal Saraiereh and the director of the Arab Satellite Communication Organisation (ASCO), Saad Ben Abdul Aziz Al Badneh.

Financing the satellites, which will be of high technological quality, and Jordan's return to the ASCO board were also discussed at the meeting.

The ASCO board groups nine members elected in accordance with their countries' financial contributions to the ASCO.

Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director Ahmad

Nawawi said that the talks were positive and covered Jordan's continued contributions to the ASCO.

The two sides agreed to maintain close contacts so as to enable Jordan to make more use of the satellite service for telecommunications and for information purposes.

Mr. Badneh said his visit to Jordan was aimed at enhancing ASCO-Jordanian cooperation in satellite communication services. The organisation, he said, is adopting plans to promote satellite services in the Arab World.

The Riyadh-based ASCO or (ARABSAT) conducts research and studies related to communication through satellites and helps Arab countries exchange television transmissions.



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- Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 663100
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al Hela at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Jabbar Ahmad at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled, "Exploring Science" at Fatima Al Zahran Comprehensive School for Girls, Irbid.

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Treating self

DO UNEMPLOYED doctors have a superior right over other professional and non-professional jobless people? We do not think so. The 262 unemployed doctors have all the right to seek placement, but they have no right to demand that they be employed by the public sector. In the first place it is not the responsibility of the government to secure employment for those who cannot find jobs; and in the second place it was not the government which forced those people to study medicine. It must be true that Jordan, according to the honourable deputy, Mansour Murad, has less than 10,000 doctors and that many localities have no medical services whatsoever. Jordan, like many developing countries has shortages in almost all the professions, especially and most importantly teachers. Yet if the percentage of unemployed doctors — 262 in 10,000 which equals 2.62 per cent — is compared to the percentage of unemployed in other professions or to the country's total of 17 per cent, then their cause should not be blown out of proportion. The contention by the society of unemployed doctors' secretary general, Dr. Abdul Halim Musa, that he and his colleagues have "spent a long number of years studying and gaining experience," and that Jordan's health services need to be expanded to cater for the needs of the people — and presumably to solving what he calls their "financial and psychological dilemmas" — is both patronising and shifting the blame. While acknowledging the country's need for expanded health services we fail to see the moral justification of doctors or any other professionals to seek solutions for their unemployment on the expense of the government, taxpayers or other equally unemployed citizens. Furthermore, it has been the government that established and bolstered a practice that benefited doctors, engineers and lawyers on the expense of other professions that in turn led to huge numbers of students pursuing studies in these faculties.

It is time that individuals, not the government, bear responsibility for their actions and their choices. Instead of asking the government for placement, those 262 doctors should themselves go to towns and villages and start their own practices. They could seek loans for that purpose from either the Industrial Development Bank or from the Development and Employment Fund. Surely, if doctors cannot cure their own problems, nobody can!

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'Y Arabic daily called on the United States to refrain from a new aggression on Iraq following the imposition of the new exclusion zone on its southern regions. The paper said that the exclusion zone constitutes sufficient cause for Arab anger, indignation and hate against the United States and the Western powers; an aggression to follow this illegal move can only help increase hatred and the cycle of violence in the region. The paper said that President Bush, in his drive to stay on in the White House for another term, imposed a no-fly zone on southern Iraq. This move, which came to the dismay and indignation of the Arabs, should not be followed by a criminal act of aggression on the Iraqi people. Any American strike against Iraq is bound to reverberate in the Gulf and draw a quick, angry reaction from the Arab masses who are already appalled at the U.S. attitude, said the daily. The paper urged the Arab regimes to join in demanding from the U.S. administration to keep its hands off Iraq and the Iraqi people who are now suffering deeply because of the sanctions. It is time for the Arab countries and Arab masses to rise in the face of the aggressors and defend themselves and their national interests, called the daily. The paper said it is not too late for the Arabs to wake up and safeguard their national interests

SAWT AL SHAAB commenting on the same theme, said that the semi-unanimous Arab consensus on rejecting the idea of partitioning Iraq is considered as a positive step, although a weak one. What the Arab countries are required to do is to take practical steps designed to protect their national interests and safeguard their territorial integrity, demanded the paper. The foreign powers-imposed security zone, under the pretext of providing protection to the Shiites, is an unprecedented evil practice that could trigger a chain of sectarian violence in the Arab states, warned the paper. It said that nearly all Arab states, including those in the Gulf, are opposed to any partition of Iraq, any infringement on its sovereignty or the creation of a Shiite zone in the south, thus prompting Iraq's President Saddam Hussein to send messages to the Arab leaders calling on them to help thwart the plot, said the daily. It said that the messages and the looming danger should prod the Arab leaders into making their move now towards healing the rifts in their ranks and open a new chapter of close cooperation among themselves. Condoning the American and Western intervention in the region, aimed at partitioning Iraq into sectarian zones, can only lead to the dismemberment of the country, a step which could be copied in other Arab countries, the paper added. It said that the time has come for the Arabs to end their enmity towards each other

Weekly Political Pulse

King Hussein — an indispensable catalyst for Jordan

KING Hussein's brush with serious illness and surgery brought to light, more than ever before, the indispensability of the Monarch to the continued stability and progress of the Kingdom. The people of the country were caught by surprise when they heard that their King had to travel to the U.S. for treatment. The immediate consequence was the consolidation of ranks of all Jordanians, irrespective of their political, social or economic colourations, behind His Majesty. This development reinforced the long-held conviction that King Hussein serves not only as a unifying force but also as an indispensable catalyst for keeping the country solid and its people at peace with one another.

There is no denying that in spite of all the rhetoric about Arabism or Arab nationalism, as providing the foundation for the creation and maintenance of the Kingdom, there are sufficient gravitational forces within the country that are pulling in different and opposite directions that warrant alarm and concern. As the Jordanian lore has it, King Hussein is principally credited for keeping the people in harmony. Even the thought of the King being temporarily sick has sent shock waves across many Jordanian homes, establishments and institutions. Fortunately for all of us, His Majesty's health problems have been effectively addressed and soon he will return to his country and people.

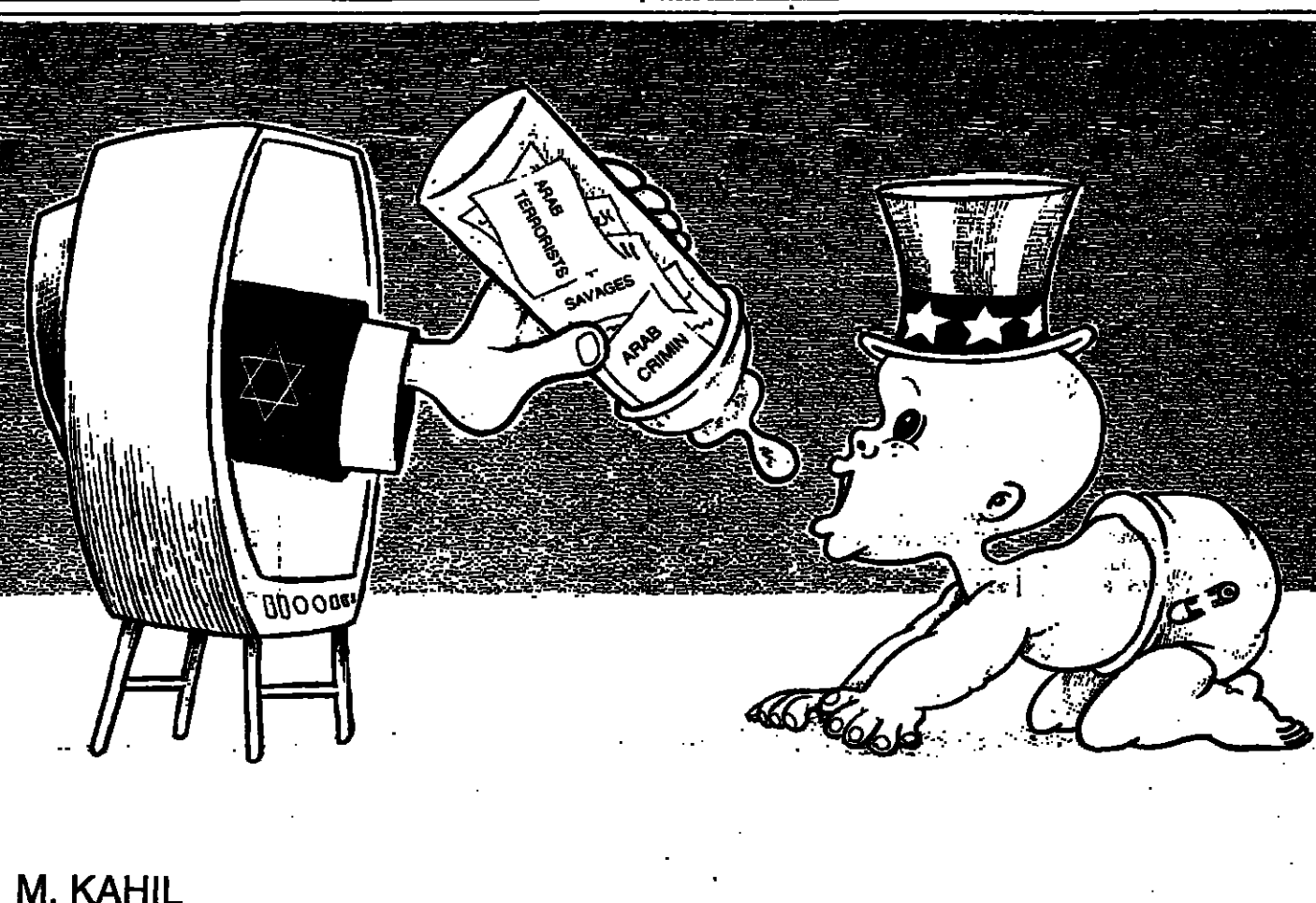
The first consequence of this rediscovered appreciation and love of the people for their King is the heightened popularity of King Hussein internally and abroad. Many Arab leaders who rebuffed King Hussein's repeated efforts to reconcile Arab differences are now racing to send their best wishes to the King. It is as if the Arab World has also rediscovered King Hussein and stopped taking him for granted. The last Arab gesture came from King Fahd who dispatched his ambassador in Washington to the Mayo clinic where King Hussein was recuperating. This is no insignificant signal from the Arab kings and heads of state and comes at a critical stage in the deteriorating inter-Arab relations. In retrospect, it is unfortunate that it took a serious operation to draw the attention and care of the Arab leaders to King Hussein's central role in regional and Arab relations. Perhaps it was an act of God to put King Hussein through his last health ordeal to begin the end of the rift between Amman and the other principal Arab capitals such as Cairo and Riyadh.

At the end of all these developments King Hussein will emerge

triumphant and vindicated domestically, regionally and internationally. Soon he will return to his people and Kingdom. It does not take much imagination to project the extent of the fanfare and celebration that will accompany his return. This much the entire world will see and appreciate. It would be like the rebirth of King Hussein as an Arab and world leader whose stature few of his counterparts can hope to match.

Above all, the King will be most affected by the kindness and love of his people during his medication process. Being kind himself and kind to others, King Hussein is surely touched by the demonstration of kindness towards him. A few weeks ago, His Majesty inquired about the fate of a certain Sri Lankan woman who was run over by a speeding car. The King wanted to know if she needed any assistance and whether her family has been notified. Then the Monarch asked if anybody in the country is caring about her. His closest confidant replied pointedly: "No, Your Majesty, no one has cared. You are the only one who is caring." This small but significant anecdote illustrates the sensitivity and care of the King towards his people and the people who reside in his Kingdom. It also manifests the King's "weaknesses" about the sensitivities of others towards their fellow men and women during times of difficulty. In a way, the King must have felt reciprocated for his continuous kindness when his people showered him with the kind of genuine kindness that they have already demonstrated.

The complementary issue is how much His Majesty King Hussein will be changed by the ordeals and joys of the last few weeks. I project the Monarch's spirit and morale will witness a dramatic upsurge in the wake of the success of his operation and the show of deep-rooted affection by his people. Encouraged by the medical fact that his health is fine after the timely medical intervention and buoyed by the emotional welcome that will greet him upon his return, the King will most likely demonstrate a new sense of dynamism and decisiveness on all important issues, be they domestic or external. On many past occasions, King Hussein hinted that he was tired and felt as if his mission had been accomplished. When he is back in his Kingdom in the course of the coming weeks, it will be a safe bet to conclude that King Hussein no longer feels this way. Rather he will feel and believe that he has a long way to go before completing his task.



ADC vows to fight on against CBS

In mid-August, Washington, D.C. CBS Bureau Chief Barbara Cochran offered to meet with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) following six days of demonstrations, staged in front of the CBS News office.

Deemed as "only a partial victory," ADC is seeking an apology from CBS, and a meeting with the network's President Eric Ober in order to discuss CBS's high profile attendance at a June 3 Jerusalem Foundation fundraiser, and the racist anti-Arab remarks made therein. CBS Anchor Dan Rather, CBS Board member Henry Kissinger, and CBS Middle East Consultant Fouad Ajami participated in a blatantly anti-Arab discussion for this benefit, which raised funds to settle Jewish immigrants in Israeli occupied East Jerusalem, on the occasion of the "25 years of the unification of Jerusalem."

In a letter sent on Aug. 15 to the Washington D.C. CBS Bureau Chief, ADC Media Coordinator Lella Gorchov informed Ms. Cochran that "in the spirit of cooperation, we have unilaterally decided to suspend the picket in front of the Washington CBS office, until the August 26 meeting."

ADC expects a formal and public apology to be made by CBS and the three CBS representatives, along with the network's commitment to investigating whether the positions of Mr. Rather, Dr. Kissinger, and Mr. Ajami should be suspended or terminated, as in the cases of Andy Rooney and Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder.

Thus far, Mr. Ober has effectively ignored the grievances expressed by ADC, has disassociated himself from the remarks made by Messrs. Rather, Kissinger and Ajami, and has also attempted to avoid CBS culpability by stating that "comments made by individuals in their personal capacity are not the responsibility of CBS News." ADC President Albert Mokhiber responded that the three officials

had been quite clearly identified with CBS. Mr. Rather had been introduced as "the Managing Editor of the CBS Evening News." He, in turn, introduced Mr. Ajami as "one of our (CBS) in-house wise men" and introduced Dr. Kissinger as being "on our (CBS) board of directors."

"At no time," Mr. Mokhiber pointed out, "did any of the speakers claim that they were speaking in their personal capacities."

In a joint press conference of ADC and Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) a transcript and audio tape were made public revealing anti-Arab remarks by CBS Anchor Dan Rather, CBS Board Member Henry Kissinger and CBS Middle East Consultant, Fouad Ajami. The three CBS figures were taped while participating in a fund raising event for Jewish immigrants to East Jerusalem. ADC President Albert Mokhiber issued the following statement:

"The tape and transcript clearly reveal the outrageous anti-Arab sentiments of Rather, Kissinger and Ajami as exhibited in their own unabashed words."

"What continues to trouble us is the refusal of CBS and each of the individuals involved to recognize their offense and extend an apology. It is unimaginable in 1992 that any network would tolerate remarks such as 'You really can't believe anything a black, a Hispanic or a Jew says', and rightfully so. Arabs must stop being the exception to the rule and it is the task of ADC to assure this for the sake of the three million Americans of Arab descent living in this nation."

copy of the policy unofficially, which states in part:

Employees who, in their private capacity, take a public position on a controversial issue, including participation in a partisan political campaign, will either be removed from handling the news involving that issue or, if such reassignment is not practical, be required to take a leave of absence. The rationale behind this policy is that an employee who takes such a public position loses, at a minimum, the appearance of objectivity."

"Thus, by CBS's own rules, disciplinary action is in order as in the previous cases of Andy Rooney and Jimmy 'the Greek' Snyder. This rule is now being selectively enforced by CBS when it involves pro-Israeli partisanship and anti-Arab discrimination."

"In order to impress upon CBS the seriousness of this matter, we have stepped up our efforts today with a national action alert urging our members and supporters to express their outrage by deluging CBS with letters and calls. We are also grateful to the many expressions of solidarity as exemplified in the open letter to CBS signed by various leaders and organizations."

"In closing, we call upon the American media to break the silence by exposing their colleagues, as painful as that may be, in order that their collective reputation as fair and impartial journalists will not be stained by any form of anti-semitism whether leveled against Arabs or Jews."

Meanwhile, ADC released copies of correspondence between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Mokhiber, the ADC president, and between ADC Legal Services Director Gregory Nojeim and CBS News Bureau chief Barbara Cochran. In his letter to Albert Mokhiber, Dr. Kissinger said:

"I am replying to your letter of August 6 concerning the recent Jerusalem Foundation discussion. Let me first state that I have long been an admirer and supporter of your organization and its objectives. In my view, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee has done an outstanding job of promoting non-discrimination. And you have been rightly vigilant to draw attention to unfair or unbalanced statements."

"However, in this case a close review of the transcript at the Jerusalem Foundation event would put my remarks in their proper context (I was contrasting the Talmudic approach to diplomacy of the Israelis to the more intuitive approach of many Arabs). You will see that my comments were directly related to the conduct of statescraft. In such diplomatic contexts, I argued, the mood conveyed by Arab interlocutors is totally reliable. My observations had no broader application and were certainly not intended to give offense."

"I cannot be in the interest of the ADC to allow itself to be drawn into a fight with a supporter, such as I am, by people circulating incomplete excerpts of my comments. Replying to Dr. Kissinger, Mr. Mokhiber said: 'Thank you for responding to my letter of August 6. While I am pleased that you claim to be a long time admirer and supporter of ADC and its objectives, I remain perplexed at your failure to understand our outrage at your comments about Arabs and your failure to apologize as of yet. At your suggestion, I again closely reviewed the transcript of your remarks at the Jerusalem Foundation. I remain astonished at the behaviour of Dan Rather, Fouad Ajami, and yourself. I truly cannot imagine how your sweeping generalisation about the collective veracity of 'arabs', in any context, can be viewed as other than offensive. In what context could an Arab diplomat, professor or media personality claim that 'you really

(Continued on page 5)

NAM should not accept a subordinate role in a unipolar world

By G.H. Jansen

When the tenth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement meets in Jakarta on September 1, it will face the most direct challenge that has ever confronted the movement — the hegemony of the One World Power (OWP), the U.S., and that confrontation is objectified by the U.S., entirely on its own authority, imposing an air exclusion zone on a NAM member, Iraq, because it is trying to suppress an internal rebellion, and doing so a few days before a NAM summit.

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union the main concern of NAM was to maintain an independent line in world affairs between the pushes and tugs of the two blocs; that entire configuration has simply disappeared "like snow upon the desert's face".

But it was not so much the disappearance of the communist bloc that brought the 100-plus countries of the Third World face to face with the sole remaining superpower as did the victory of the U.S., and of its 32-member coalition over Iraq in "Desert Storm." That "victory" seemed to consecrate the politico-military might, the unchallenged leadership of the U.S., a starting date for the hegemonic era may be set at March 1, 1991.

The unchallenged political power of the U.S. was amply displayed in the U.N. Security Council when the U.S. got passed every anti-Iraqi resolution it wanted, not one of them being rejected. This particularly refers to Resolution 687, "the mother of all resolutions," which quite simply brought Iraq under the strict control, the mandate of the U.N., that is the U.S. Only in the case of 688 there was some resistance with three Third World countries voting against and India and China abstaining.

This hegemonic mind-set was put into words in a notorious position paper issued by the Pentagon proclaiming America's world leadership and warning everyone against any attempt to challenge it.

In this hegemonic context differences of approach between the Third World and the OWP on issues of universal interest could not but become acrimonious and confrontational. Such issues are human rights, disarmament and the environment. On all of these the American attitude was one of "do as I tell you, or order you, but do not do as I do"; in short, a double standard. Disobedience could be punished through a cutoff of aid funds or the refusal by the World Bank or the IMF of financial assistance.

The "right" to intervene to prevent human rights violations was, and is, immensely dangerous for Third World countries with dissident minorities, which is to say practically every Third World country. Because, as one Western commentator put it, "there is no easy pausing point between humanitarian means and political ends".

And if humanitarian interference is to be based on the principle of "self-determination", the chaos and bloodshed that could lead to it is all too evident in the former Yugoslavia and USSR.

Just a year into the hegemonic era NAM was well-aware of the dangers of a unipolar world and voiced its anxieties at the ministerial committee meeting convened at Larnaca.

The anxieties took the form of an emphatic reassertion of the need for NAM to remain in being, in reply to some suggestions that it had lost its raison d'être and could be wound up and merged with the Group of 77. That the Third World felt the need for safety in numbers was clear from the expanding membership of NAM with a steady influx of new members, guests and new observers, particularly from members of the former communist bloc.

Basically that position of the Third World confronting the One World Power though not talking — not daring to talk — in terms of confrontation, remains the present attitude of NAM towards the U.S., it is a compound of timidity, resentment and, in a small way, solidarity.

Add it is that attitude that the NAM summit should self-consciously acknowledge and, by recognising, should strengthen. However, a more realistic expectation is that if it does declare its stand, a big "if", it would all be done obliquely and not in so many words.

But there has been a perceptible shift in the power equation between the OWP and the Third World and NAM during the spring and summer of 1992, with

the latter increasingly prepared to talk back to or stand up to the former.

There were several issues that revealed that the OWP, maybe, had feet of clay; there was the long, slow decline of the U.S. dollar, still continuing; not so much its inability as the refusal to act on the hideous human rights situation in Bosnia; the total American inaction on Afghanistan, a situation that the U.S. had done so much to bring about by arming and funding the guerrillas. Even on the relatively minor issue of Cyprus the U.S. was rebuffed by the leader of the mini-entity of northern Cyprus. And the performance of the U.S. delegation to the earth summit at Rio, at once pathetic and provocative, pitted the OWP against the global environmental movement, which today is the real OWP.

It is poetic justice that on the Iraq issue, on which the OWP had manifested its hegemonic power, the Third World has most clearly shown its independence. This happened on August 11, when an "emergency" session of the Security Council refrained from reaffirming Resolution 688 when the U.S. was looking for authorisation to use force against Baghdad on behalf of the Shiite rebels. Partially, if not wholly because of that refusal the U.S. has not dared to go back to the Security Council to get U.N. "cover" for its actions and, also, the U.S.-led coalition now consists only of the U.K., France and Russia and, in the Middle East, only Kuwait has approved the imposition of the "no-fly" exclusion zone. Most of the other Arab countries have expressed either their disapproval or disquiet over this U.S. move.

Thanks to these developments NAM plucked up enough courage to speak out in the draft of a policy declaration to be discussed at the summit. This warned the West against using human rights and environmental concerns "to interfere in the affairs of developing countries... no country or group of countries should arrogate to themselves the role of judge and jury."

Against the background of this realignment of large forces on a global scale, that would impinge directly on NAM's role and future activity, the structural change in NAM suggested by the ministerial committee on modalities are merely picaresque. Thus, if the committee report says there should be more coordination between NAM and the Group of 77, the chairman of NAM should have various committees to help him deal with crises and that the coordinating bureau of NAM members at U.N. should be the principal organ for continuity between summits. This coordinating bureau should work through committees of officials from the permanent missions. The report, drawn up by diplomatic bureaucrats (chaired by the Cyprus foreign minister) is couched in the involved jargon of diplomatic bureaucrats and has their limited and cautious outlook: when in doubt — form a committee.

The most useful of these recommendations is that the coordinating bureau should review the criteria of NAM membership. To what end? If that is done with honesty and thoroughness at least half the present membership of NAM should be expelled, and among the first would be Cyprus because of its acceptance of foreign bases on its soil.

By what standard would the tenth summit deem to be a success? This will be a matter of the summit articulating attitudes and analyses rather than laying down particular policies on this or that issue. Negatively, it would be a sad failure if it does not at least express misgivings about (if it is not brave enough to condemn) the declared U.S. intention to oust a Third World leader in Iraq, through humiliations like "safe havens" and exclusion zones. Positively it would be a success if in the speeches of some of the leading members it is made clear that NAM will not accept a subordinate role in a unipolar hegemony; that it will not accept the dictates of the One World Power because the interests of the Third World and of the U.S. on several vital issues are clearly opposed. Thanks to the course of events NAM may yet show enough courage and frankness "to save their soul before the gumbbutt raps upon the door."

The writer has been covering the Middle East for British and Indian magazines. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

ADC vows to fight on against CBS

(Continued from page 4)

can't believe anything a Jew says."

"You now claim your remarks were limited to Arabs engaging in statecraft. However, even in this context with the pool of individuals limited, the negative stereotype remains."

"Since you assert no offense was intended, I see no reason why you would delay any further in apologizing. Your positive response would certainly be the best fashion to concretize your expressed support of ADC and its goals."

After meeting CBS News Bureau Chief Barbara Cochran, Legal Service Director Gregory Nojima wrote a letter which says: "Lella Gorchew and I thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and CBS Evening News Senior Producer Brian F. Healy

on August 26 in your office. At the meeting, we expressed a number of concerns about comments made at a fundraiser for the Jerusalem Foundation on June 3, 1992 that could be regarded as racist statements, and at least evidence of a political bias, by CBS News anchorman Dan Rather. CBS Board member Henry Kissinger and CBS consultant, Foad Ajami, suggested a number of remedial steps.

"In particular, Dr. Kissinger's comment that 'you can't really believe anything an Arab says,' regardless of any context in which the statement is made, is a racist comment. If issued against any other ethnic group (e.g. you can't really believe anything a black says), CBS would have reacted immediately. You indicated that CBS News is insulated by management from adopting the views of its board members.

Given that independence, nothing prevents CBS from reprimanding a board member. You agreed to express our sentiments to Mr. Ober in New York.

Mr. Ajami's comments evidence the same anti-Arab bigotry. You indicated that Mr. Ajami is a paid consultant, not an employee, who is tapped precisely because he is opinionated and expresses controversial views. For precisely that reason, CBS should tap, on a regular basis, as opposed to sporadic basis, additional consultants whose views would counter-balance those of Mr. Ajami. As we indicated at the meeting, we are prepared to furnish the names of such persons.

"We acknowledged that Mr. Rather is the only employee of CBS involved in the fundraiser. As an employee, Mr. Rather is bound by the CBS policy, recited

by you and Mr. Healy at the meeting, barring CBS employees from taking, in their private capacities, public positions on controversial issues that would compromise the appearance of that person's (and CBS's) objectivity with respect to that issue. You indicated that our demonstration

in front of CBS had sparked, at the highest levels in CBS, a discussion, clarification and reaffirmation of this policy. We asked for a written copy of the policy and you indicated that you would consult with Mr. Ober in New York regarding provision of the same.

"We said that there is no question that Mr. Rather violated this CBS policy, first by attending a fundraiser held to raise money to settle Soviet Jews in Jerusalem, including East Jerusalem, and second, by the comments Mr. Rather made at the fundraiser. We received incredulously your

suggestion that Mr. Rather did not know the nature of the fundraiser or that it could be seen as controversial.

"Mr. Rather has spent eleven years as the CBS News anchorman, and has travelled extensively in the Middle East. Mr. Rather described Teddy Kollek, the mayor of Jerusalem, as both the reason for being of the Jerusalem Foundation and as 'my old friend.' The event was advertised in the New York Times as a benefit for the Jerusalem Foundation 'which raises money to create jobs in Jerusalem for immigrants.' Controversy surrounding the settlement of Soviet Jews in areas annexed or occupied by Israel has been front page news. Mr. Rather's statements 'celebrating' 25 years after the city (Jerusalem) was united under Israeli rule, expressing elation that 'the war is won, and the city regained,' and recitation of a

poem celebrating the fact that by occupying the West Bank, Israelis could now 'go to the Dead Sea by way of Jericho' show clearly his knowledge of the nature of the fundraising event and a bias regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"You indicated that had Mr. Rather attempted to clear his participation in this fundraiser within CBS, he would probably have been told he should not

participate because of the CBS policy you recited to us. That being the case, we indicated that this incident cries out for a public statement from CBS affirming the CBS policy about taking public positions on controversial issues, reprimanding Mr. Rather for violating that policy, stating that the views Mr. Rather expressed at the fundraiser are not necessarily the views of CBS or its employees, and affirming that

CBS News does not take editorial positions with respect to matters of controversy. You agreed to make our position clear to Mr. Ober.

"As we indicated, the Arab-American community is outraged at this incident. You told us that you would give us a progress report by yesterday and inform us of the actions CBS would take regarding this incident. However, we have not yet heard from you.

Iraq vows to foil 'partition'

(Continued from page 1)

the skies over the marshes by Western aircraft, it said tens of thousands of people in southern Iraq had volunteered to "confront the American, British and French ... plan."

Iraq said it had nothing to fear from the Western allies' imposition of the "no-fly zone."

Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, said the dissidents gave themselves up to party offices in Basra where long queues of volunteers waited to receive arms to defend Iraq's unity.

"Large numbers of army deserters and infiltrators have surrendered to party offices, benefiting from an amnesty issued by the leadership earlier," it said.

"American, British and French planes will not frighten or discourage Iraq," said the newspaper.

"Tens of thousands of people from the villages, districts and towns in the province of Basra reported voluntarily to party headquarters demanding arms."

"The volunteers, who have crowded the party offices, refused to go home and they are waiting orders from the leader Saddam Hussein to permit them to respond to the aggression of the evil persons," Al Thawra said.

U.N. officials said Sunday a bomb attached to a U.N. car in northern Iraq at a government checkpoint but was discovered before it could explode.

A strong protest was sent to Iraq's representative to the United Nations over the incident and U.N. Secretary-General Bolotsov Gbali was informed, the officials added.

"Obviously this was extremely serious and we are taking it very seriously," Gualtero Fulcheri, U.N. coordinator in Iraq, told Reuters. "Maximum security is being enforced during all movements of staff in Iraq."

A new team of U.N. weapons inspectors prepared to enter Iraq on Monday, the first since the imposition of "no-fly" zone.

Iraqi officials have hinted they might not cooperate with U.N. weapons inspections or U.N. humanitarian efforts.

The inspections are mandated by the U.N. Security Council resolution enacted April 3, 1991, outlining the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

More than 40 U.N. teams have visited Iraq since the ceasefire. Tensions have several times brought threats of allied military enforcement action.

Executives with the regional office of the U.N. special commission, which is responsible for the inspectors, said Sunday a 15-member nuclear team was preparing to travel to Baghdad on Monday.

The new team is to be headed by an Italian, Maurizio Zifferero, who has been to Iraq several times. The team is multinational and includes Americans, said Doug Englund, regional chief of the operation.

Lebanese elections

(Continued from page 1)

But in the mainly-Druze Shouf mountains, where turnout was heavy, some Christians voted.

Michel Kashou'a, 27, who voted in the village of Bimkin, said "these elections would restore coexistence between us and the Druze."

In west Beirut, traffic was heavy and voters queued to cast their ballots. Pictures of candidates covered almost every wall.

The election has already made history with last week's selection of Shiite and Sunni Muslim fundamentalists — few in number but a possible wedge into the future. Parliament traditionally was controlled by wealthy feudal clans from both the Christian and Muslim communities.

Election officials said the Christian boycott meant at least 19 of Sunday's candidates were likely to be declared uncontested winners.

They include six cabinet ministers and Lebanon's former ambassador to the United States, Nassib Lahoud, a Maronite Catholic.

Shaky truce

(Continued from page 1)

war against the Soviet-backed government that ended in April with the transfer of power to the Mujahedeen.

Mr. Rahman, who was buying vegetables, said he had been forced to sell clothes and his television to feed his eight children.

Student Farid Ahmad said he and his two sick sisters had been besieged inside their home for 20 days.

He ventured out on Sunday to take his sisters to hospital, only to find all of Kabul's 17 hospitals had been damaged and most were without power. He was looking for a private doctor.

For those with money, Somalia is a land of plenty

MOGADISHU (AP) — For those with money, there is plenty to buy in this starving, desperate land.

Want a 50-kilogramme bag of rice looted from the Red Cross? That will be \$15, please. Looking for a forged passport to leave Somalia? Fifty bucks.

War, anarchy and famine have obliterated the formal economy, but informal markets thrive in the slums of Mogadishu, with much of the commerce conducted in dollars and stolen goods.

Between 1.5 and two million Somalis are in danger of starving to death, including thousands in the capital, but you'd never know it by walking through Bakaara market, the city's largest.

There are bananas, grapefruit, watermelons, pasta, nuts, tea and candy. Thick slabs of fly-covered beef hang from outdoor stalls in the crowded, dirty market.

There is an abundance of rice and beans, most of it looted from foreign aid deliveries. Merchants sell straight from bags marked "emergency relief aid" from the United States, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

A man escorted by six armed comrades entered the market pushing a cart loaded with unopened sacks of rice bearing Red Cross markings. The market has become so glutted with stolen rice that the price for 50-kilogramme sack has dropped from \$80 to \$15.

The cruel fact in Somalia is that people with money can buy almost anything, including food intended for the starving.

"Just tell me what you want to buy and I can find it for you," said Diriye Jama Barre, a Somali interpreter who guided a reporter and a photographer through the narrow, maze-like market.

Somalia was already a very poor land before dictator

Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted last year. Subsequent battles between rival clans have flattened much of the capital, including the commercial district. What survived the battles was looted whenever there was a lull in the shooting.

Only a few formal businesses operate. The electricity and telephone systems have been down since early last year. There is no government, police force or mail service.

Mohammad the moneychanger whips out his pocket calculator and, in return for \$20, hands over 146,000 Somali shillings. The stack of bills is the size of two bricks.

For \$130, Mohammad will make you a Somali millionaire, but you would need a wheelbarrow to carry the cash.

Hassan Abdul Karim Abdullah, who operates a tidy, well-stocked pharmacy in a large tin shed, takes pains to point out that his supplies were acquired properly.

"I have never bought any stolen goods," he said. "It is too dangerous. I don't want to deal with the men who carry the guns."

He showed a visitor his supply of penicillin, a highly prized item often stolen from foreign aid groups. His vials are two years old and came from Zagreb when the Croatian capital was still part of Yugoslavia.

At a nearby stall, men offered Somali passports for \$50. For a diplomatic passport, you pay a premium.

The famine has done little to interrupt the supply of khat, a leafy stimulant many Somali men chew constantly. It tends to make their behaviour more aggressive and unpredictable as the day wears on.

Mideast peace talks resume today

(Continued from page 1)

posed 35 detailed questions on issues such as the future of Israeli military occupation laws and of land policies which have defined 65 per cent of the West Bank as "state land" available for grant to Jewish settlers.

"We have made it very clear to the Israelis that answers to these questions would certainly facilitate negotiations and would speed up the process," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said.

The Palestinians said they expected Israel to respond on Monday and they also hoped to discuss their own proposals presented during earlier rounds of talks.

Hijack ends

(Continued from page 1)

granted asylum, the five would still be tried on hijacking and weapons charges.

Air hijacking is punishable by death in Ethiopia. Italy has no death penalty and refuses to extradite people if they could face the death penalty. The punishment for air piracy in Italy is seven to 21 years in prison.

Mr. Castellucci said the hijackers had been very calm and had not threatened to harm anyone during their negotiations with authorities.

Mr. Castellucci said the investigation was proceeding slowly because the five hijackers spoke only their local Ethiopian dialect and some English.

During the hijacking, Italian authorities negotiated with the five with the help of the local manager of Ethiopian Airlines and the Ethiopian ambassador to Italy.

Since their arrest, Mr. Castellucci said the five, interrogated separately, have only given fragmented declarations.

However, he said it appeared that only four hijackers seized the plane in Addis Ababa. He said one of the passengers apparently decided to join the hijacking rather than get off in Djibouti. He did not identify which hijacker was formerly a passenger.

Delegates

(Continued from page 1)

her business and one of Israel's major wineries.

Among legislators at Sunday's meeting were Avigdor Kahalani of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party and Benjamin Netanyahu, who is trying for leadership of the opposition Likud Party. Mr. Netanyahu said about half the 120 members of parliament oppose giving up any of the Golan.

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Schumacher wins 1st Grand Prix

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — German Michael Schumacher celebrated the first anniversary of his Formula One debut with a thrilling maiden victory in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

Schumacher steered his Benetton to the line ahead of newly-crowned world champion Nigel Mansell by a German driver since Jochen Maas won a crash-marred Spanish Grand Prix in 1975.

Schumacher, 23, finished 36 seconds clear of Mansell in a rain-hit race filled with incident and driven in both wet and dry conditions.

Mansell, starting from pole position, forced his way into the lead after a poor start and led for much of the middle of the race but failed to hold off Schumacher's late surge.

Mansell finished 43 seconds ahead of his Williams team mate Italian Riccardo Patrese, as the pair gathered enough points to ensure the Anglo-French team the Constructors' Championship.

Briton Martin Brundle was fourth in the second Benetton, ahead of triple world champion Ayrton Senna who had outstripped Mansell at the start but fell away in the wet conditions.

Senna, in a McLaren, stormed back to finish fifth ahead of Finn Mika Hakkinen in a Lotus.

Schumacher's win moved him up to third place behind the Williams duo in the Drivers' Championship, just a point behind Patrese on 44, and the young German wept openly as he stood on the victor's podium.

Schumacher did not take the until the 34th lap of the 44 lap race when Mansell stopped to switch from wet to dry tyres.

He then drove determinedly, reeling off two fastest laps, before Mansell gave up the chase and allowed him to pull clear for victory in only his 18th Grand Prix.

While it was a famous day for the Benetton and Williams teams, it was a disappointing one for Ferrari, and, by their own standards McLaren.

Both Ferrari drivers, Frenchman Jean Alesi and Italian Ivan Capelli, were among the eight non-finishers and Senna's McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger failed to start the race owing to what seemed to be a gearbox problem on the grid.

There were several wheel-touching incidents as the conditions changed, and Alesi's retirement followed a collision at the hairpin with Mansell after only seven laps. Mansell, who broke Graham Hill's British record of 176 Grand Prix starts, continued unharmed.

Korda, 24, who said he was a ballboy for Lendl, 32, in the 1979 Czech-Sweden Davis Cup match in Prague, beat Lendl in their only previous meeting, last year in Stockholm.

"The guy played very well," Edberg said of Korda. "He had a very good day and he should do well at the Open."

"The only worry I'd have if I were him is that he played so well today," said Edberg, who begins the defence of his U.S. Open title next week. "You don't want to play your best tennis the week before the Open."

Korda's left-handed, cross-court accuracy with his forehand and passing shots were powerful weapons against the persistently charging Edberg.

"I played consistent. I was strong on important points," Korda said after he broke Edberg's service in the last game of each 12-game set.

Edberg lost his first service game of the week when Korda took advantage of a double-fault and two Edberg errors to go up 3-1 in the first set.

Edberg broke back in the fifth game, a 14-point duel when Korda, the third seed who has won the Hamlet tournament five times, scored his third straight victory over the second seeded Chang in as many weeks.

"Lendl played good tennis," Chang said. "He hits the ball harder than the average player. It takes time getting used to."

"I won the first game and lost the next five. That's not the way to start a match," Chang said.

Lendl, who beat Chang in service-return winners, 37-13, said, "the ball did funny things in difficult windy conditions. I'm playing better tennis than I did last year."

Lendl won the last four games of the second set and said of his Sunday final round meeting with Korda: "He's a dangerous player, but streaky."

Korda defeats Edberg, Lendl upsets Chang

COMMACK, New York (R) — Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia upset top-seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden 7-5 7-5 and Ivan Lendl easily handled Michael Chang 6-2 6-3 in the semifinals of the \$265,000 Hamlet Cup tennis tournament.

Korda, 24, who said he was a ballboy for Lendl, 32, in the 1979 Czech-Sweden Davis Cup match in Prague, beat Lendl in their only previous meeting, last year in Stockholm.

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St Germain stays top with comfortable win

PARIS (R) — Paris St Germain cruised to a 2-0 home win over Caen to stay top of the French first division with maximum points.

International midfielder David Ginola opened the scoring after 27 minutes and Laurent Fourrier wrapped up his side's fourth win by volleying in a Ginola cross in the 63rd minute.

Paris St Germain hold a two-point lead over a batch of clubs, including champions Marseille who scored in the closing seconds to preserve their unbeaten record in a 2-2 draw at lowly Lyon.

Francis Sauze put Marseille ahead from a free kick in the ninth minute only for James De-

bah to equalise five minutes later. The home side must have thought they were home and dry when Debah scored again with a minute left.

But Basile Boli spared Marseille's blushes with a last-gasp equaliser.

Monaco, runners-up last season, were held to a goalless draw at Le Havre. The team from the principality are sixth in the 20-strong league with five points.

Newly promoted Valenciennes suffered their fourth consecutive defeat — 1-0 at neighbours Lille. They are the only side in the first division without a point.

Paris St Germain, who have spent heavily in a bid to upstage

Marseille, turned in another impressive performance.

"The team really look good," said club President Bernard Brochand. "We're getting better and better and I think it's just starting for us."

Trainer Artur Jorge, often criticised for his defensive tactics, was delighted.

"We've scored 10 goals in four matches and that's not too bad," he said.

Marseille, who have lost ace marksman Jean-Pierre Papin to AC Milan, are not the dominant side they were last season. But boss Bernard Tapie hinted earlier this week at a big-name signing soon.

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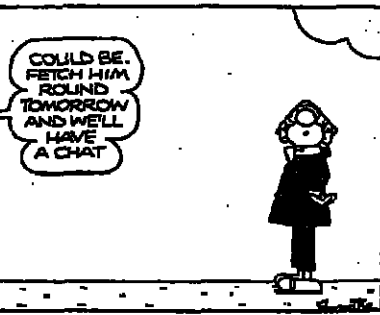
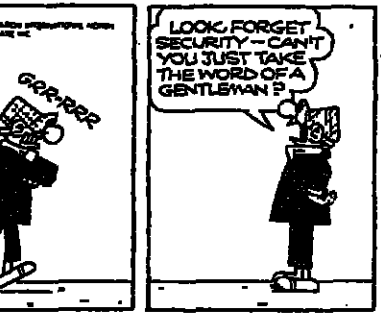
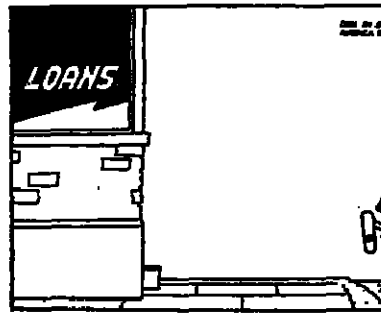
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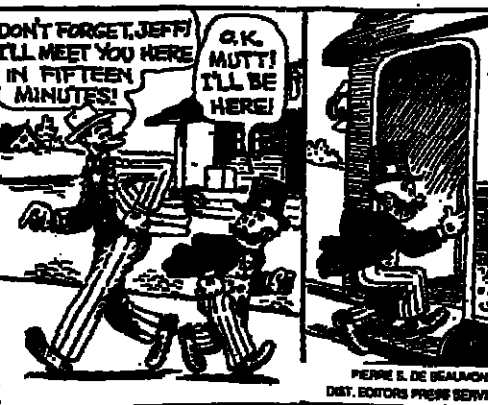
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠KJ87 ♠943 ♠J8 ♠KJ73

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have nine points in high cards, all working, and a good four-card holding in the other major, where partner virtually guarantees four cards. A bid of one spade is inadequate—jump to two spades. That is not forcing; it simply shows 9-11 points.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KJ1063 ♠Q762 ♠5 ♠J62

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You have an unbalanced hand, so there's no reason to suppose that no trump will be a happy spot. However, don't rebid a five-card major, or take a preference to clubs with only three-card support. There's a distinct possibility that your response forced partner to suppress a four-card heart suit, so bid two hearts now.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ10 ♠985 ♠AK632 ♠A8

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Normally, you would bid your cheapest ace to show an excellent fit for partner's suit and slam interest, but here you know partner will sign off for lack of anything to cue-bid. Jump to five spades. That shows a

good fit and all the first-round controls, and asks partner to evaluate his holding for slam.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q9 ♠85 ♠1063 ♠K106542

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—The hand might well play better in two clubs than one no trump, but there's no way to stop there—a bid of two clubs would be asking for majors, and you would have to play in three clubs. We would as soon take our shot at one no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ6 ♠AJ3 ♠KJ104 ♠KQ9

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—It's easy to let your 20 points go to your head and leap to three no trump. Bear in mind, however, that partner might have nothing. Since you would have overcalled one no trump immediately with 16-19 points, a bid of 2 NT now following your takeout double must show better than that, i.e. the balanced 20-count that you hold.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠95 ♠KQJ963 ♠72 ♠AJ6

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South

1 ♠ Pass Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—In the balancing seat, a jump in a suit shows the equivalent of a sound opening bid with a good six-card suit. This hand certainly meets those qualifications, so bid two hearts.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY AUGUST 31, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid any sudden actions that could throw anyone else off base and be careful not to alienate anyone of importance who you happen to come in contact with who is connected with the law.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are inspired now to extend your interests and activities to new boundaries and it would be wise to do so as you have the planets with you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is an excellent day for you to get into some better ways to handle whatever business interests impel you but utilize up to date methods.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you steer clear of a depressive long time or older person and concentrate upon making new allies you can use extraordinarily to your advantage.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind of a confidential nature can work out very much to your satisfaction if you get data that helps with new activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have considerable charm today and you can get progressive friends to go along with the wishes that are uppermost in your consciousness now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think over the various worldly outlets that can bring you the

advancement and prestige you desire and then let a charmer help you to obtain them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a considerable amount of potential opportunity to plunge forward to some interesting conditions but you need the aid of a generous friend to get them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A chance is now presented to you to gain information that will aid your upwarp by discussing over your affairs with a financial expert.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't hold on to the past but get out and make some new contacts with those who are in a position to further your unrealized desires.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever your activities consider them from the angle how you can best realize a greater amount of benefit from them by cooperation with a confidential expert.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) An outsider who attracts you very much will join forces with a good acquaintance about to become your friend to give you a desired boost forward.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Finding up your surroundings so that one vital to your welfare will be impressed can release you many unexpected benefits in the days ahead.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"To improve your pucker power, pick up a bowling ball with your lips 100 times a day..."

JUMBLE

THAT SC

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 24-August 28, 1992)

AMMAN — After dropping to a new record low Monday, the dollar traded within a narrow range during the rest of the week before ending it an average of 1.22 per cent lower against European currencies and 2.24 per cent against the yen, compared to the end of the previous week. The yen was boosted at the end of the week by news that the Japanese government proposed a new major financial package to stimulate the economy.

The after-effects of the dollar's breach of its all time low of 1.4430 marks before the weekend, snow-balled Monday. Waves of dollar selling thus persisted despite renewed concerted central bank intervention. The consensus among most traders was that the fundamentals behind the dollar's decline, particularly the wide interest gap, were too strong to be counter-acted by central bank intervention. The dollar, thus, ended at a new record low against the mark at 1.4015 marks, and at the week's lowest against the British pound at 1.9940 dollars to the pound.

Trading remained within narrow ranges Tuesday, as traders were still baffled as to the direction of the dollar. The mark, however, was the most sought-after currency. It thus gained against most major currencies, particularly the sterling pound, which fell to 2.7878 marks, its lowest since joining the ERM in 1990.

The German unit retreated against its European counterparts Wednesday, helped by a Bank of England intervention to buy sterling against marks.

While the dollar continued to appreciate cautiously on position adjustments Thursday, cross trading dominated activity at the end of the week. The mark slipped against most European currencies while the yen surged. An EC statement ruling out realignment in the near term, prompted a wave of mark profit-taking. The yen, on the other hand, was buoyed by an \$84 billion Japanese government plan, the largest ever financial package, aimed at stimulating the Japanese economy.

As for this week, traders are awaiting the results of the G-7 Deputy Finance ministers meetings in Paris over the weekend to provide direction, while some observers maintained that the dollar could decline to as low as 122.5 yen in the days ahead.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	21/8/92 Close	28/8/92 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.9550	1.9830	1.43%
Deutsche Mark	1.4230	1.4095	1.38%
Swiss Franc	1.2710	1.2604	0.84%
French Franc	4.8595	4.8015	1.24%
Japanese Yen	125.81	123.05	2.24%

USD Per STG

Inter-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	21/8/92 1-Month (%)	28/8/92 1-Month (%)	21/8/92 1-Year (%)	28/8/92 1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.56	3.25	3.62
Sterling Pound	10.00	10.31	10.06	10.68
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.75	9.68	9.62
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.25	7.63	7.69
French Franc	10.03	10.31	10.19	10.56
Japanese Yen	4.06	3.53	4.06	3.50

*Interest, bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.663	.665
Sterling Pound	1.3131	1.3191
Deutsche Mark	.4699	.4722
Swiss Franc	.5253	.5279
French Franc	.1380	.1387
Japanese Yen	.5583	.5410
Dutch Guilder	.4167	.4188
Swedish Krona	.1284	.1290
Italian Lira	.0616	.0619
Belgian Franc	.02280	.02291

Per 100

Americans cut back on savings because of faltering economy

WASHINGTON (R) — Americans cut back on savings in July as a faltering recovery stepped up pressure on family budgets, according to a Commerce Department report.

Economists warned a vicious circle was developing in which consumers dip into savings or borrow to keep up their living standards but at a cost because it reduces the pool of capital needed for productive investment.

With U.S. unemployment high and concern about the economy becoming a key issue in campaigning for November presidential elections, the department said spending increased by 0.3 per cent to \$4.08 trillion last month.

while incomes went up by just 0.2 per cent to \$5.05 trillion.

The pattern was similar in June, when a 0.4 per cent spending rise outpaced a minimal income gain of 0.1 per cent.

"One thing that is ominous is that income rises are so small consumers clearly are spending more than they have," said Mar- co Babic, an economist with Evans Economics Inc. in Washington. "A lot of people are being forced to use their credit cards to borrow money and so savings are falling."

Other than January, when incomes were flat, incomes have risen in each month this year but by such fractional amounts that it has not made consumers feel

wealthier or more confident about spending.

Gains in personal income, which includes wages and salaries as well as income from sources such as dividends, interest and businesses, are essential for funding the consumer purchases that fuel two-thirds of U.S. national economic activity.

The Commerce Department said private-sector wages and salaries were up by \$4.5 billion in July from June, but goods-producing industries' payrolls dropped by \$1.5 billion after decreasing \$3.2 billion in June.

Separately, the department said the U.S. trade deficit during the second quarter increased to \$24.4 billion from \$17.2 billion in

the first three months of 1992.

The second-quarter trade imbalance was the largest in a year and a half since a \$27.8 billion deficit in the fourth quarter of 1990. Sales overseas fizzled partly because of weak markets in major trade partners like Germany and Japan.

Meanwhile, the New York Times reported Sunday that the U.S. Defence Department is making plans for deep cuts in personnel as it anticipates likely reductions in military spending in the years ahead.

Citing classified plans it had obtained, the newspaper said the force reductions would be below the lowest levels the Bush administration has said would be

acceptable and could free as much as \$80 billion in military spending by 1997.

The paper said the cuts would affect fundamental military programmes, including troop strength, weapons purchases and military bases and would take place regardless of who wins the November presidential election.

It said the military believes the cost cutting is not cyclical, but part of a long-term trend.

"You won't see a \$280 billion defence budget in the future. It'll be more like \$250 billion or \$240 billion or lower," the newspaper quoted a senior army official as saying.

This fiscal year's budget is \$291 billion, the newspaper said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK OFFICE AMMAN - JORDAN				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR AUGUST 30/08/1992				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN EXCHANGE BANK	3,010	2.140	2.150	2.150
THE HOUSING BANK	7,059	2.810	2.800	2.810
AMAR BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,340	2.300	2.300	2.320
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	6,730	2.400	2.380	2.360
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	4,204	1.200	1.210	1.220
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	189,288	1.440	1.470	1.490
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	632	2.160	2.160	2.160
UNITED BANK SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	114,384	4.500	4.490	4.510
BANK OF JORDAN	1,893	14.500	14.500	14.500
AMAR BANK	2,180	115.000	114.000	114.000
AL-KHAYAT AL-JAHAZ INSURANCE	299	3.000	2.900	2.900
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	12,848	2.730	2.730	2.740
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5,916	1.270	1.270	1.260
AMAR INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	218,940	4.480	4.540	4.700
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	4,775	1.230	1.220	1.210
JORDAN PRESS CORPORATION / ALMAH	584	6.510	6.640	6.640
SWEDEN KIDOLE BANK & CREDITORS HOTELS	350,604	1.800	1.900	1.900
JORDAN HOTEL CORPORATION	1,125	0.260	0.250	0.250
RECREATION EQUIP. SERVING & MAINTENANCE	2,000	0.990	1.000	1.000
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	5,628	0.910	0.910	0.900
JORDAN GOLF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	5,886	0.650	0.640	0.640
JORDAN PAPER & PUBLISHING /AD-OUTDOOR	850	3.250	3.400	3.400
AMAR PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2,760	1.400	1.380	1.400
JORDAN BAKER	3,837	2.300	2.300	2.340
AMAR ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	4,429	7.190	7.190	7.400
AMAR PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	7,553	8.970	8.700	8.660
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	560	5.600	5.400	5.603
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	18,831	5.340	5.320	5.390
INDUSTRIAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	2,967	3.490	3.490	3.490
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILLS	1,760	8.800	8.800	8.800
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1,175	4.700	4.700	4.700
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	1,120	0.700	0.700	0.700
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	7,975	2.430	2.430	2.400
AMAR CEMENT FOR PAVES & CEMENTS	82,933	3.030	3.030	3.060
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1,160	0.570	0.580	0.580
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	2,880	3.900	3.800	3.800
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	5,804	3.310	3.310	3.320
SPINNING & WEAVING	13,340	2.800	2.800	2.800
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	18,142	5.580	5.500	5.600
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	82,353	3.680	3.640	3.640
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9,920	1.370	1.340	1.340
JORDAN FERTILIZER COMPLEX INDUSTRIES	12,640	0.480	0.470	0.480
INTERNATIONAL WOODEN INDUSTRIES	10,128	4.530	4.420	4.440
AMAR INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	48,541	2.090	2.090	2.140
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1,270	7.780	7.800	7.800
GRAND TOTAL		1,259,357		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		280		
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET		1.70	553	



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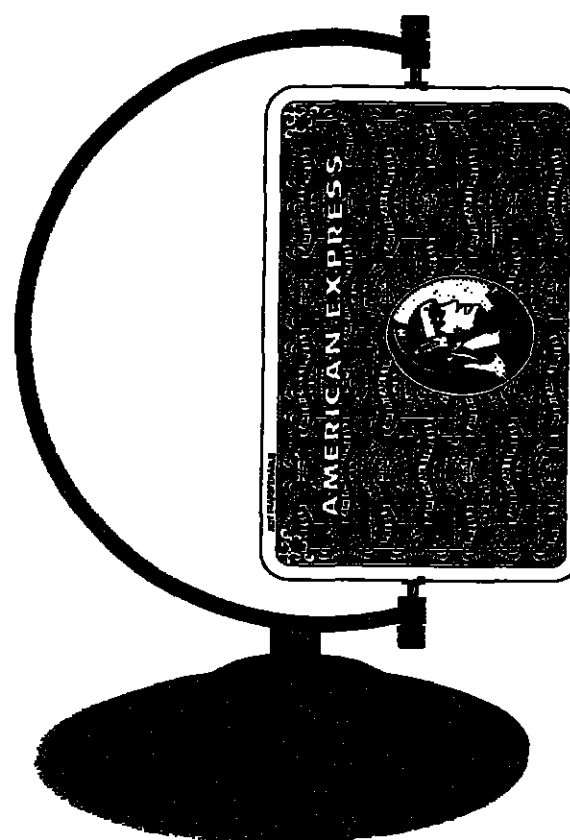
for the erection, installation and commissioning of a hot rolling mill plant in Jordan with an annual capacity of 30 thousand tons of various types and sizes of steel products.

The contract was signed on Wednesday, 26 August 1992, by Mr. Adel Mohamad Abu Khajil (Chairman) and Mr. Nizar Abdul Karim Darwazah (Deputy Chairman) on behalf of the Middle East Steel Industries Co. and by Mr. C.S. Park on behalf of Hyundai Corporation.

The plant location is at Zinayyeh of the Mafrag region. The project is expected to be completed and start production within six months.

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Serbs, Muslims fight street battles in 4 Sarajevo suburbs

Bosnian radio claims Gorazde 'liberated'

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Serb and Muslim forces fought gunbattles in Sarajevo Sunday morning and the war-battered Bosnian capital echoed with mortar and artillery explosions.

Journalists at Sarajevo Radio reported street fighting in at least four suburbs and intense heavy machinegun and small arms fire broke out at 5:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) north and west of the Holiday Inn Hotel.

The radio and television centre was among the buildings hit.

The clashes followed reports of heavy fighting Saturday evening in the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza and a mortar barrage on the centre of the city.

Serbs accused Sarajevo's Muslim defenders of launching an offensive against Ilidza Saturday to try to link up with Muslim districts.

The achievements of last week's Yugoslav peace conference in London were put to their first test after rebel Serbs claimed they were lifting their siege of the battered Bosnian town of Gorazde.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic announced Saturday that the withdrawal of the first 1,000 irregulars from the town, virtually cut off from the outside world for nearly five months, had begun in consultation with the United Nations.

"In accordance with our obligations undertaken at the London conference I have ordered the relief of Gorazde," Mr. Karadzic said in a statement.

However, Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic flatly denied there had been any Serb withdrawal, saying heavy fighting was

in fact continuing around Gorazde as well as two other Bosnian cities surrounded by Serb forces, Tuzla and Jajce.

"It is obvious he (Karadzic) is spreading lies to confuse the situation. This is what he always does," Mr. Ganic said.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia could not immediately be reached to give its version.

Radio Sarajevo reported that Bosnian government forces took control of most of Gorazde Sunday a day after rebel Serbs announced they were lifting their five-month siege of the beleaguered city.

If true, the end of Gorazde's siege meant the culmination of the ordeals of as many as 100,000 people who have been trapped in the city 60 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo.

The radio report that government troops had entered Gorazde after several days of fierce fighting on the left bank of the Drina River, said the report. "Eighty per cent of the territory of Gorazde municipality, has been liberated."

Gorazde, without access to food, water, electricity or medical supplies for months, and under constant bombardment, is one of the grimmest of Bosnia's black spots and therefore a potent propaganda tool for both sides in the conflict.

For the Muslims, the hardships

inflicted on the town's 35,000 residents and large refugee population are a symbol of the aggression of the Serbs, who have overrun 70 per cent of the Bosnia since the republic declared its independence in March.

For the Serbs, lifting the siege of Gorazde would be proof of their stated commitment to peace. They pledged at the London conference not to initiate any fighting and to hand their heavy weapons over to U.N. control within a week.

However it is not clear how much control Mr. Karadzic has over the irregular forces in the field, nor how willing he is to order them to silence their guns.

Bosnia's other faction leaders say Mr. Karadzic cannot be trusted, blaming him for the collapse of frequent ceasefire agreements, none of which has lasted more than a few hours.

Mr. Karadzic spent much of Saturday trading accusations with the Muslims of initiating bloodshed in violation of the London agreements. The Serb leader accused Muslim forces of unleashing a "crazed onslaught" in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

He appealed to British Prime Minister John Major, co-chairman of the London peace talks, to urge Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to restrain his forces.

But the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said most of the city was quiet and Western journalists in the centre heard only occasional mortar explosions and gunfire.

The Muslim-led Bosnian Defence Force made no mention of an offensive in Sarajevo, although it reported its fighters were close to capturing the nearby village of Cerkici.

Meanwhile, heavy artillery thundered around Bosanski Brod Sunday in a relentless Serb assault on one of the last Croat strongholds in northern Bosnia.

The crack and whistle of shell fire broke the morning calm, sending the few people out on the streets scurrying back into shelters and doorways.

"This has been going on for months, sometimes it's worse, sometimes it's not," said Sulic Kreso, a member of the HVO (the Croatian Council of Defence), the name given to Bosnia's Croat forces.

He said the Serbs wanted to smash the 200-metre bridge over the River Sava to cut Bosanski Brod off from its sister town, Slavonski Brod, in Croatia.

Several shells also slammed into Slavonski Brod, where people have been under fire for more than a year — during Croatia's war of independence and now Bosnia's.

An air attack on the bridge a fortnight ago reduced a number of houses nearby to rubble but it escaped serious damage. Four children sheltering in one house were killed.

"They try to hit it but they're not very good, are they?" Mr. Kreso said.

It has been hit, as a few twisted girders testify, though it is still safe to cross.

Bosanski Brod is a ghost town for most of the day. People emerge to buy bread and groceries from small, fairly well-stocked stores but do not linger.

Quebec's Bourassa fights for support in unity deal

STE FOY, Quebec (R) — Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa, fresh from putting the finishing touches on a unity deal with English Canada, launched a strong campaign to try and unite his divided party behind the accord.

In a speech to about 3,500 cheering Liberals at a special party convention, Mr. Bourassa vigorously defended the accord which reforms parliament and shares out federal powers to accommodate French-speaking Quebec's demands for more political autonomy.

Support at the convention is considered a key hurdle for Mr. Bourassa, who has been opposed from all sides — even, from nationalist factions within his own party — for his support of the deal aimed at avoiding a break-up of Canada.

The usually calm and subdued leader received several standing ovations as he told the meeting Quebec had gained powers and protection it had never had before in Canada's history.

Mr. Bourassa struck out at opposition leaders who have already begun a vicious campaign against the accord.

"My hands are now free to defend myself," he said.

Over the past week Mr. Bourassa has been called a traitor, a sell-out, a weakling and a cuckold for the compromises he made in order to reach a deal with the nine English-speaking premiers.

He lashed out at opposition leaders who are in favour of Quebec separating from Canada, saying the sovereignty they prefer is "becoming more and more archaic."

"The breaking up of a federation does not occur without serious problems ... it is risky to assume too much as unknown," he said, adding that unity was needed for Quebec to start to revive its faltering economy.

Members within the party, including the powerful Youth Wing which has one-third of the delegates at the convention, rejected the deal earlier this week, saying it fell short of the party's constitutional platform.

But Mr. Bourassa worked hard to convince delegates that he had Quebec's best interest at heart, and brought the room to its feet as he declared his "sole objective is to protect Quebec's future ... which is essential to protect its youth."

Rebel Georgian region quiet after ceasefire

MOSCOW (R) — The rebel Georgian region of Abkhazia was calm Sunday, a day after government and rebel leaders agreed to a surprise ceasefire in the Black Sea coastal area.

Archil Khutasteli, Georgian Interior Ministry press chief, said there had been no fighting overnight in the region, where more than 100 people have been killed in clashes this month.

"There was no shooting last night. The situation is stabilising," he said from the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

Spokesman at the Abkhazian parliament and Georgia's ruling State Council also said the night had passed calmly.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze sent troops into Abkhazia earlier this month after the regional parliament effectively declared independence.

Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani and Abkhazian parliament head Vladislav Ardzinba, meeting in the Russian resort of Sochi Saturday, agreed to end military operations on Monday and to exchange their wounded and dead.

The deal followed reports Georgia had rejected an Abkhazian proposal for a truce beginning at midnight Friday.

Mr. Kitovani said late Saturday that the agreement was an important step towards settling the conflict. ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

Before the ceasefire was signed Ardzinba had threatened to launch a guerrilla war if government troops invaded his stronghold in the coastal town of Gudauta.

The Abkhazian parliament spokesman said Mr. Ardzinba had already ordered his troops to hold their fire but said he was worried the Georgians might strike again.

"According to our intelligence the Georgians are regrouping their forces. We do not have enough weapons," he said.

But Mr. Khutasteli insisted government forces would not attack.

"We are giving the Abkhazian side a chance to start negotiations ... This means the State Council is offering Ardzinba the chance to come to Tbilisi with his bodyguards for negotiations," he said.

Mr. Ardzinba has already turned down several invitations to go to the Georgian capital for talks.

Shevardnadze is due to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow Thursday for peace talks. The Interfax News Agency said Friday that Mr. Ardzinba had also agreed to take part.

The Sochi talks were mediated by Sergei Shoygu, chairman of Russia's State Committee for Emergencies. Russia has voiced fears that it could be drawn into the conflict.

Mr. Kitovani said the Sochi meeting also discussed the creation of Russian-Georgian peacekeeping forces to guard road, railway and sea transport in Abkhazia.

He said Armenia, which receives supplies on trains passing through western Georgia, might take part in guarding key communications links in Abkhazia.

In Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijanian units forced Armenians to withdraw from the village of Arutunagom, destroying two Armenian tanks and seizing three, the Azerbaijanian Turan News Agency said. The Armenian Snark News Agency confirmed the retreat.

In the village of Berdashen, one Armenian was killed and two were wounded by Azerbaijanian shelling overnight, Snark said.

Earlier this week, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum that committed them to a Sept. 1 ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, a region populated mainly by Armenians.

COLUMN

Shanghai police nab knitting-needle attacker

PEKING (R) — Shanghai police have arrested a 36-year-old electrical worker dubbed "the vicious wolf" who prowled the city's buses jabbing unsuspecting women in the rear with knitting needles, the official Liberation Daily said. Beginning in March 1991, Guo Weicheng rode public buses and stuck as many as 28 women in the behind with knitting needles, the newspaper said.

In one case the needle went a full four centimetres into a woman's body. In his last attack, however, Mr. Guo stuck a woman who happened to be riding on the same bus as the chief police investigator in the knitting needle case, who promptly arrested him, the newspaper said in its Sunday edition. "Because he failed in love, he developed an attitude of seeking vengeance against young women," the newspaper said, adding that Mr. Guo's case had been sent to the courts.

Dutch aim to target rich U.S. gay tourists

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch tourist officials are promoting Amsterdam as the "gay capital of Europe" in the United States to capture the higher incomes of American homosexual men, the Netherlands Board of Tourism said. "The homosexual segment is easy to define and reach. Their income level is higher than the average American and they travel enormously — the whole year round," said spokesman Marcel Baltus. He said Amsterdam's liberal image made it a particularly welcoming venue for homosexuals, though there were no plans to extend the "gay" angle to promotion in other countries.

Japan scraps condom kit for peace troops

TOKYO (R) — After much debate Japan has rejected a scheme to arm its troops with condoms when they go to Cambodia as United Nations peacekeepers, a Defence Agency spokesman said Friday. Along with land mines and Khmer Rouge guerrillas, AIDS was seen as a potential hazard facing Japanese troops serving abroad for the first time since World War II. The Defence Agency studied possible anti-AIDS measures, such as distributing free condoms, to prevent infection from the deadly disease, the spokesman said. It finally abandoned the idea, however, preferring to give troops a basic AIDS education course instead. "It is, after all, up to each individual what he does," the spokesman said. "It is a private matter, not a workplace issue."

Roach droppings may trigger asthma attacks

SOUTHAMPTON, England (R) — Cockroaches are partly to blame for a rise in the number of asthma sufferers in Britain, a leading scientist said. The insects' excreta is one of several allergy-producing substances discovered to be linked with asthma attacks, said Professor Stephen Holgate of Southampton University. He told the British Association Science Festival in Southampton that a big increase in cases of asthma in people aged over 65 in Britain was thought to be linked with new discoveries about substances which can cause allergies. These substances included the chemicals in cockroach droppings. A succession of hot summers and mild winters has allowed insects to flourish in Britain.

Books looted by Nazis will return to Netherlands

AMSTERDAM (R) — Five hundred rare books stolen by the Nazis during World War II will be returned to the Netherlands by a Moscow library, the ANP news agency said. The agency said the Rudomino Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, which has held the books since 1982, would hand them over to the University of Amsterdam. They were captured by the Soviet army towards the end of the war. The books — including volumes of history, literature and Communist writings — were seized from Dutch libraries and private collections by Nazi German invaders. Their recovery has raised hopes for the return of the most prized art treasure stolen by the Nazis — more than 500 old master drawings stolen from Rotterdam and believed to be hidden in the vaults of Moscow's Pushkin Museum.

Miyazawa faces tense time as Sagawa scandal unfolds

TOKYO (R) — September could be an anxious month for Japanese Prime Minister Kichii Miyazawa after reports that fresh, damning revelations are pending in the Sagawa scandal that could directly implicate cabinet colleagues.

Already the unfolding drama has forced the country's most powerful politician to resign as vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Veteran party "kingmaker" Shin Kanemaru resigned last week after admitting he took 500 million yen (\$4.06 million) in unreported political contributions from a former executive of giant trucking firm Sagawa Kyubin.

That shock development heightened the possibility that government legislation to enact its \$87 billion economic package, Japan's largest pump-priming plan since World War II, could be delayed when parliament resumes, probably in October.

On their record in previous scandals engulfing the LDP, opposition parties can be expected to capitalise on the "political corruption" issue by seeking to summon all Sagawa-tainted public figures for lengthy testimony.

Newspaper reports, quoting prosecution sources, say Mr. Kanemaru's case is just the tip of a huge iceberg of shady payments to politicians from Sagawa Kyubin, a firm which benefited from heavy patronage to grow over the past decade into Japan's biggest parcel delivery company.

According to the Asahi Shimbun and other Tokyo dailies, top Sagawa executives now face big-fish-of-trust charges gave money totalling 1.76 billion yen (\$14.3 million) to at least 11 more senior LDP politicians.

The reports said these included unnamed incumbent ministers and a previous prime minister.

Public prosecutors have refused to comment on Mr. Kanemaru's resignation or on who else took Sagawa money. But amidst the swirling rumours, two senior ministers felt it necessary to issue public denials that they had done anything wrong.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told reporters Friday there were no grounds for media allegations that he received 100 million yen (\$913,000) from Sagawa.

Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Miyazawa's deputy and would-be successor, was reported to have added that Japan's mass media wielded too much power.

"We will have to change the laws of defamation and increase the penalties," he was quoted as adding.

Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda also denied, at a Friday news conference, that he received corporate donations from Sagawa.

Yugoslav issue threatens Non-Aligned Movement

JAKARTA (R) — Foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement struggled Sunday to settle a row over Yugoslavia's membership which is threatening the organisation's credibility ahead of a summit next week.

"This is threatening the movement. It's very critical," said one Middle East delegate.

The movement is split between Islamic countries which want Yugoslavia to reapply for membership and other states, notably from Africa, which say it should keep its seat.

The Islamic countries, which make up 40 per cent of the membership, are angry at the treatment of Muslims in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and say the movement must not ignore Yugoslavia's actions there.

They say Yugoslavia is no longer the same country as the state which helped to found the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 and should reapply for membership in the same way as other former Yugoslav republics.

Delegates said that if the movement failed to deal with what was essentially a legal matter it could not expect to be taken seriously by the international community.

Most Indonesia wants the six-day summit beginning Tuesday to set out a path for the movement that will give its 106 members greater economic prosperity and a new voice in a world in which the United States is the only superpower.

Talks between the foreign ministers Saturday ended in acrimony as Yugoslavia and Egypt hurled abuse at each other.

Malaysia, leading the attack against Yugoslavia, said the issue must be resolved and that the movement could no longer sidestep every divisive problem.

"If we were to continue with such an attitude, I am afraid that we are not only being unrealistic but wittingly or unwittingly protecting aggressor states within our midst and ensuring the marginalisation of our movement," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad said.

Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is attending the meetings as a guest of the movement, said the rump state of Yugoslavia had no right to keep its seat.

"We expect the movement ... not only to condemn the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbia and Montenegro but take steps against it," Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said.

Clinton calls for probe of response to hurricane

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton has called for an investigation into why it took so long for aid deliveries to reach victims of hurricane Andrew in south Florida.

Mr. Clinton, in his most direct response yet to criticism of President George Bush's handling of the disaster, also announced that as governor of Arkansas he had ordered the state's National Guard to collect food and supplies for the storm's victims.

Mr. Clinton called for an analysis of the storm response "at an appropriate time" to help improve readiness for future disasters "if it is concluded that the decision-making got somehow gummed up (slowed down)."

Mr. Clinton had until now avoided joining widespread criticism of the Bush administration for allegedly acting too slowly in dealing with the hurricane, which devastated the Miami area and coastal Louisiana this week.

A senior Clinton aide, asked only hours earlier for official comment on the criticism of Mr. Bush, said the candidate did not want to politicise the issue.

But Mr. Clinton said later he was disappointed that Mr. Bush had sought to shift some blame to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles for allegedly not asking for certain help from the U.S. government sooner.

"I hated very much yesterday the president pointing the finger at the governor and all that sort of stuff," Mr. Clinton said in a satellite link-up with a journalist's convention in Washington.

"I wasn't there and don't know what the facts are ... but I do believe that an important part of the president's job is to manage disasters," he said.

"I think we ought to find out what the facts were in as much of a non-political way as possible — because I don't think anybody wants to hurt people in a disaster area — and then see how we can improve our policies."

Mr. Clinton announced that he had ordered the Arkansas National Guard, the state militia, to open six state armories to collect food and emergency supplies for the hurricane's victims in Louisiana.

Later, speaking to reporters in Little Rock, Mr. Clinton said he believed relief efforts were "moving in the right direction," after the storm left 250,000 people homeless in what may be the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

"Then at the appropriate time, the specific complaints of the people on the ground in Florida need to be examined and then it needs to be corrected," he said.

He was referring to angry complaints by Florida officials and homeowners that they waited for days before basic supplies like food, water and building materials began arriving.

President Bush Saturday ordered nearly \$300 million in federal loans to help hurricane victims in Florida and scolded reporters for viewing the federal aid in terms of presidential politics.

Mr. Bush said he also expected to ask Congress for additional

emergency funds "in whatever amount necessary."

"We intend to respond to this crisis on a human level, block by block," said Mr. Bush, who had been criticised for responding too slowly to the damage.

Under Mr. Bush's directive, the small business administration was authorised to distribute \$150 million in loans and the Federal Emergency Management Agency another \$143 million. A total of \$67 million in loans had been approved earlier.

The U.S. Defense Department announced Saturday that more than 3,000 federal troops were already in south Florida would swell to 14,000 troops from the army, navy, air force and marines.

The military was also beginning a second relief effort for the Pacific island of Guam, which was battered by a typhoon that left thousands homeless and caused an estimated \$300 million in damage.

"I want the American people to understand what we're trying to do," Mr. Bush said to reporters at the conclusion of the hour-long meeting.

When asked about the election-year implications of his handling of the disaster, Mr. Bush looked annoyed and said: "This may be hard for you to believe but I've been thinking about what's good for the people."

"I don't even think about the politics of it," he said, clearly upset with the question. "We're trying to help people."

Referring to reporters covering the storm's devastation, Mr. Bush said, "I see a bunch of people running around interviewing people who've been thrown out of their homes by a natural disaster, saying 'how do the politics work?'"

"Good heavens, is there any honour here? Can't we help people without having somebody try and put a political interpretation on it?" he asked.

The cancellation of the trip to Kennebunkport, Maine, and a campaign swing to the west Monday and Tuesday, show the firm hand of James Baker, the former secretary of state who is quickly showing his influence as the new White House chief of staff.

"Baker makes decisions quickly and they get done," said one White House official, who said "before days were wasted trying to get a consensus."

Mr. Bush turned to Mr. Baker — his friend and confidant — to oversee the White House and the reelection campaign.

One official said Mr. Baker was responsible for Mr. Bush's visit Monday to Florida and Wednesday to Louisiana to inspect hurricane damage — only hours after the storm struck those states.

Clinton lead over Bush is down to 6 points

NEW YORK (R) — Democrat Bill Clinton's lead over George Bush for the U.S. presidency has shrunk to six percentage points, a new public opinion poll released Saturday showed.

But barely two months before the U.S. election on Nov. 3, Mr. Clinton's vice presidential running mate Al Gore remains far more popular than Vice President Dan Quayle. The Time magazine/CNN poll of 836 "likely voters" showed.

The poll showed that 46 per cent said they would vote for Mr. Clinton if the election were today, against 40 per cent who would vote to reelect Mr. Bush for a second four-year term.

Mr. Clinton's lead over Mr. Bush had last been reported to be between eight and 15 points in other public opinion polls.

The poll said that Mr. Bush's popularity ratings lagged behind those of Mr. Clinton, the governor of the state of Arkansas.

Forty per cent of those polled said they had an unfavourable impression of Mr. Bush, compared to 33 per cent for Mr. Clinton. Roughly equal numbers said they had favourable impressions of the two — 52 per cent for Mr. Bush and 53 per cent for Mr. Clinton.

The poll also showed that 52 per cent of voters had a favourable impression of Tennessee Senator Gore, compared to only 36 per cent for Mr. Quayle.

Sixty per cent of those polled said the U.S. economy should be the main problem that the candidates address. Only five per cent said the top issue should be "family values," which the Republicans have made a cornerstone of their campaign.

The poll had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.



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